

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents

Following on from my letter sent on the 17th March we have now adapted new ways of working, teaching and learning. Our pre-Easter learning has followed a remote learning model and post-Easter we will be moving into an online learning programme.

- Remote learning has consisted of physical packs of work which were supplemented by the VLE. In the meantime, the staff have been working hard getting to grips with new platforms, setting, marking and giving feedback on work. Indeed, they are continuing to prepare through their Easter holidays.
- Online learning will involve two platforms: a platform for face to face interaction as well as the VLE. I am aware that there are many platforms available, however the ones that we have selected are the best based on our digital learning experience across the Cognita Group. We will continue to use the VLE so as not to confuse or double up where information is available. Videos, screencasts, tasks and content will be uploaded onto it for lessons so that children will have the opportunity to replay content and access it whenever they want. The finer details of online learning will be coming out later in the holidays.

If your child does not have an in-built webcam, headset or earphones, you could either purchase these before the beginning of the summer term or school has a limited number of laptops which we can loan out. Please get in contact if you will require one. I know that teachers and children alike are keen to see each other again and am pleased that this will be made possible after Easter.

You will no doubt hear about what other schools are doing with regards to online learning. At Clifton Lodge we are taking our lead from the vast experience of our sister schools in Asia who have been in lock down for 2 months. The wisdom gleaned from them is that online learning cannot fully replicate the physical classroom teaching, although a very high standard can still be maintained.

We will be following a different timetable, which will be sent to you. We are reflecting and refining all the time and it is fair to say that week 1 may not necessarily be what weeks 2 and 3 look like. We aim to provide a learning experience that is manageable for the children and sustainable for staff as well as being meaningful and positive.

Thank you in advance for your support at this challenging time. Our teachers are concentrated on two priorities: maintaining the wellbeing of our children and ensuring the continuity of their education in the days or weeks to come.



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I hope that this letter finds you all safe and well. Wishing you a restful Easter break.

Kind regards,

Beth Friel

Head

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