



11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Stepping through 2021 Lockdown – Step 2 Week 1 Success & How we might help some more

It's difficult to imagine that this time last week we had children in school. We expect that everyone within the school community was presented with big challenges last week. We also know that many of these will be ongoing, some days feeling good, some less good – know that we are here and happy to hear from you and help in whatever way we can as we move forward.

For those of you who are ready, your engagement with us here in school has been wonderful. We have such a variety of ways that parents and children are getting in touch, engaging with us, and allowing us to engage with you. Whether online or offline there was lots going on last week and we plan to offer more, and different where needed, as we continue on our journey together. So whether you are part of the online community through the school website or other tools such as Google Classroom, or offline and keeping in touch, collecting activities from school through more traditional means please carry on doing what you and your child enjoy together. Remember there's no need to be 'forcing' your child to take part in any activities being made available – let them come to it, with you alongside where possible, when it feels good to do so.

Supporting online engagement

Are you keen to engage with online activities but finding yourself short of what you need to do this?

You may have heard from the media that the government are providing laptops to school to support children and families in engaging online where they don't have the necessary, or enough equipment. Following letters sent out to all parents last term and through contact you have made with us recently we have a pretty long list of families in this position. Unfortunately, to date we have only received 8 laptops, although we are hopeful of receiving more. How to decide who these should go to is very difficult, as you'd imagine!

This first bank of laptops is going to be provided to **families who have shared their need** with us, are **not attending in-school provision** and have **more than one child who attends Haytor View in the home**. We know that at this stage this will overlook many families, for which we apologise – we felt it appropriate to begin where the impact of having a laptop may be greatest due to the numbers able to access it. If we have more than 8 families in this category we will provide them in order of when they shared their need with us.

We will of course be in touch again should we receive more laptops at which time we hope to extend the offer. If you know that you have a need for this support and have not let us know, or are not sure if you have, please get in touch and we'll add you to our list.

Other ways to support online engagement

Are you finding things tricky because you have no access, or limited access to the internet?

We are keen to hear from you if you would be helped by:-

- Having a 4G router in your home, enabling connection to the internet via the mobile network
- Having increased data allowances on your existing mobile devices

We have the means to seek support in both of these ways where children are not at school, or where this is limiting the level of access to the internet that you would want. We are told that these offers are limited in number so will be seeking to move forward with requests for this in the next 48 hours. With this in mind **please get in touch via phone, email or School Gateway explaining your need for either of these services by the end of tomorrow, Tuesday 12th January. If requesting the 'additional data' offer please let us know your existing mobile network**. While we can't make promises around these offers we are very keen to put in requests where you tell us a need exists – you are entitled to this.

With all this talk of online learning, let's not lose sight of the fact that the best way for you and your family to stay safe, comfortable and happy during this period is up to you – remote learning doesn't mean online learning, it just means learning activities that are not at school. So make sure that you are doing things the way that works for you, and if we can help more with this, just get in touch.

We'll continue to be in touch during this week, and you know where we are if you'd like to make contact for any reason. In the meantime thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hampton
Leader of Learning and Development

Katy Galling
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba
Chair of Governing Board