



Stobhillgate First School
Morpeth, Northumberland
NE61 2HA
T 01670 513382
E stobhillgate@the3rivers.net
stobhillgate-northumberland.co.uk

08 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year, I hope you and your family had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. It has been a busy week, particularly after the Prime Minister's announcement late on Monday evening. Thank you so much for your patience this week, your support is greatly appreciated.

Can I thank families who have completed home learning tasks this week. Staff are trying their best to keep the home learning curriculum as similar to what the children would be covering in school. Although I appreciate home learning is not easy for many families, it is important that you encourage your child to complete the set work and support them if possible. Most children have already missed a significant amount of time away from school during the pandemic and if they do not access learning during this period it will inevitably impact them when they return to school. I fully understand the stresses and difficulties that you may be experiencing and we are here to help in whatever way we can. To ensure our children are accessing the learning they need, we are now required to monitor pupils' engagement and will contact families more regularly if children are not accessing the work.

At the start of the year, we gathered the views of parents/carers on remote learning. It was really helpful to listen to your ideas and experiences of homeschooling. We listened carefully to this feedback and have adapted the way in which we now deliver home learning. We feel that the remote learning that we now offer is much more in line with the curriculum that we deliver in the classroom and also enables children to communicate more regularly with their class teacher. It is important to highlight that given the current lockdown it will not be possible for teachers to deliver 'live lessons' online because during the school day teachers will be teaching children in school (those of critical workers and vulnerable children).

We would love to find out how remote learning is going in your home. Please complete the attached [Google Survey](#). We are always looking for further ways to improve our practice and consider how we can support you. Please do not complete this survey if your child is currently attending school.

Remote education provision

Please follow the [link](#) to read our guide to remote teaching as this explains how we will support your child while they are not in school.

Remote learning obviously relies on access to both an electronic device like a tablet, or a laptop and the internet. We understand that during these difficult times, people may not be able to provide this for their child. In certain circumstances, there may be an opportunity where we can support you with this.



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What if you do not have access to a suitable device?

If you do not have access to an electronic device like a laptop, or tablet, or your only device is a mobile phone, please contact the school and we will see how we can assist you.

What happens if I can not access the internet?

There may also be an opportunity to temporarily increase mobile data allowances if the following circumstances are applicable:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

Please contact the school if these circumstances apply to you and we will see how we can help.

MyOn - a personalised digital library at every student's fingertips!

We are very excited to launch our partnership with MyON. MyON is a digital library with thousands of ebooks for children to choose from. These books are linked to your child's age and can be tailored to their interests. These digital books will allow you and your child to read books together during this home learning period.

To enhance our home learning we will also be using MyOn to set reading and writing homework for your child to complete. These tasks will help your child to engage with the digital library and deepen their understanding of the texts. Your child's teacher can view the books they have read and how long they have read for too.



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If you are worried about internet access you can also download 20 books at a time to your device for your child to read offline at any time.

MyON Reader is a student-centred, personalised literacy environment that gives students access to more than 6,000 enhanced digital books. MyON has the ability to match students who use Accelerated Reader with the right book at the right reading level, based on their interests. They are able to read books from a vast selection within their ZPD reading range.

Once you've chosen a book, simply hover over the book and click Read. MyON books also offer audio narration. This is a great tool for younger readers or if your child is reading a challenging book with lots of new vocabulary. Use the Play/Pause button to control this.

MyON can also be used as a homework tool. Teachers may set projects for students to complete as part of home learning or homework. Homework features include close reading tools such as:

- A built-in dictionary
- Highlighters, sticky notes,
- Literacy emojis, graphic organisers, projects and much more

We will be issuing login details next week to the children who are following the Accelerated Reader programme.

School Meal Provision

Fortunately, we are still able to provide a hot lunch for the children attending school. In light of the current situation, there may however be times when the meal option for the day may have to change due to supply or staffing issues. Please be assured that even in these circumstances, a hot meal will be provided albeit different from what is published on School Grid.

For those of you who used the HUGG system over the Christmas period to access FSM vouchers, the Local Authority are keen to receive some feedback from you about your experience of the new system, in particular:

- Did you find it easy to use?
- Did you have any issues with the system?
- What are your overall thoughts?

If you could let us know your thoughts by emailing the school admin account, we will forward your comments back to Northumberland County Council.

Can we please remind the parents of children who are currently attending school to send the children to school in warm PE kit (trainers/tracksuit) on their allocated days as we will still endeavour to get the children outside when possible (Mondays - Y3/4, Thursdays



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- Y2, Fridays - Y1/EYFS). Can we also ask that you please ensure we have your most up to date contact details; this applies to all parents/carers and not just those whose children are attending school during this period.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Kind regards

Glen Whitehead
Headteacher