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*Headteacher Lynn Harrison*

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents,

Here we are in Lockdown number 2! None of us want this, as staff we are devastated and have been put under enormous pressure with such short notice to get things organised. But with the recorded Covid related deaths exceeding 1000 yesterday, it is sadly essential.

We have spent this week putting together comprehensive home learning packs for every child.

During the last Lockdown, some parents experienced difficulties printing off the copious sheets, some felt overwhelmed or confused by the amount of work on the website and didn't quite know where to start and some really didn't enjoy having to be the teacher, whilst balancing working from home. We have worked so hard this week to eradicate these issues and have (hopefully) produced a much more purposeful package together.

We have provided every child with;

- A filled pencil case
- A spellings or phonics book
- A literacy book complete with photocopied sheets for the next 2 weeks
- A numeracy book complete with photocopied sheets for the next 2 weeks, some have maths workbook too
- A topic book, with resources for the next 2 weeks.
- Age related teaching resources
- Reading books
- A Friday work book.
- A fortnightly overview of the planned lessons for you to follow
- Teaching resources such as PPTs (Powerpoints) and spelling lists on Teams

We will be offering:

- Live lessons to introduce the phonics, literacy and numeracy lessons and on occasions the topic work.
- Live spelling tests each Friday
- The opportunity to change reading books at your convenience
- Marking of the work on a fortnightly basis

We would like you, as parents,

- To be on hand for the first few live lessons to help your child navigate Teams
- To help your child with the independent tasks
- To show them where the resources are on Teams for their reference
- To hear your child read every day

- To return the Literacy, Numeracy, Topic and Phonics/Spelling books to school every other Thursday so that we can mark their work and put the next 2 weeks of resources in their books. The first return date is **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**, anytime after the morning sessions please.
- Collect the marked books between 2pm and 4pm the next day (Friday) from school, so that the children have everything they need for Monday's lessons.

We would like the pupils to,

- Join the live lessons and behave appropriately during these lessons
- Complete the directed tasks
- Continue to learn spellings and tables (where appropriate)
- Read to your parents every day
- Complete the independent topic and other work as directed by your teacher
- Complete at least 2 hours of PE per week ( Joe Wicks, walking, going for a run, whatever you enjoy doing safely)
- Look after your books and resources as we will want them back in school when we reopen
- Take pride in your work – only produce your very best work
- Have a look at the BBC and CBBC live lessons to enhance your time away from school
- Contact your teacher as soon as you get stuck. You can email us, or video call us on teams, or send us a chat in Teams
- HAVE FUN

As you can see we have provided a Friday Book. This is so that on every Friday the children will take part in a live spelling test and have 2 independent tasks to complete. There are 5 weeks of work already in the book so this will not need to be returned on Thursdays when you bring the other work to school. An explanation of the reading comprehension and maths puzzles/challenge tasks is in the front of the Friday Book.

Obviously this style of learning and teaching is new to all of us, we will have to adopt a trial and error system, don't get down hearted if your internet lets you down or things don't go right on the first few lessons, we are learning and will make mistakes too!

We will review this system after the first two weeks and make any necessary changes.

These are really challenging times for everyone, but if we all pull together and work together, we will get through this and look forward to being back in school at the earliest opportunity.

Please, please, do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any worries or concerns, we will be in school delivering remote learning and looking after Key Worker children.

Take care and stay safe,

Lynn Harrison and the whole staff at Irthington Village School.