



Wadham School

A Church of England Community School

"Life in all its fullness" John 10:10



Wednesday 6th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Adverse Weather Conditions – Remote Learning on Thursday 7th December

As you will be aware, a weather warning has been given for this evening and tomorrow, with continued rainfall starting around 6pm tonight, and strong winds during school transport times tomorrow morning.

Given the disruption experienced earlier this week, and the likelihood that we will experience significant staff and student absence tomorrow, we have taken the decision to close the school to students and staff on Thursday, moving to a day of remote learning instead.

This decision has been taken in consultation with other Headteachers in the local area, including those in the Crewkerne and Ilminster Schools' Partnership. CISP schools have collectively decided to move to remote learning in order to ease childcare for families.

Closing a school is never an easy decision, but I hope parents and staff will recognise and appreciate that switching to remote learning removes the risk of potentially hazardous journeys tomorrow, as well as providing a continuation of learning throughout the entire school day.

The plan for tomorrow will be the same as previously delivered when the school has had to close – students will follow their normal timetable online, with teachers delivering lessons and setting work through Teams, using the 10-40-10 model. Further information can be found at the end of this letter.

Currently we anticipate that the school will open as normal on Friday. We will monitor the weather closely, liaise with School Transport and other local schools and inform parents via an update on our website and an Edulink message by 7.30am on Friday if there is a need to close.

I appreciate that some people may not be happy with this decision – it's not something that will ever make everyone happy – but do know that I've made it with the safety and well-being of our community in mind.

As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Headteacher



Yeovil Road, Crewkerne, Somerset. TA18 7NT Telephone 01460 270123
Website : www.wadhamschool.co.uk E-Mail : office@wadhamschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr R Burgas
Chair of Governors: Mr C Chapman



Remote Learning – Thursday 7th December 2023

How will students access their learning?

We have asked staff to share a link to their lesson in the Teams channel for their class. This will be posted as a message to alert students that the lesson is taking place, with a hyperlink that joins them to the live lesson.

The image below is an example of this – this was my link sent to 7RD German for our live lesson last March.



Students should click on the link, where they will then be admitted to the lesson by the teacher.

Where a member of staff is absent due to illness, no link will be posted and we are unable to provide work for this lesson.

What is the format of live lessons? How will my child be taught?

The class teacher will be available to respond to questions from students throughout the lesson.

The structure we are using is the 10-40-10 model.

- Teachers will deliver a 10min introduction to the group,
- then give them roughly 40mins to complete the task(s) set,
- then bring the class back together for feedback in the final 10mins.
- During the main body of the lesson, cameras and microphones will be off and muted, with the teacher directing students to raise questions and make comments using the 'raise hand' and 'chat' features in Teams – this provides help and support for everyone participating.
- Teachers will remain online throughout the lesson to answer questions raised and give support/guidance if needed.

Work may be set as an assignment so that students can complete and return it to their teacher.

What are the expectations regarding behaviour for live learning?

We understand that live learning can seem daunting. Staff will be adapting lessons to make them accessible to students. We ask that all students join the lesson with their camera on, but mic muted, for the initial 10min introduction. This enables the teacher to meet and greet students and settle the group.

Students should use the 'raise hand' feature in Teams to request support or ask a question. The chat feature should only be used for conversations about the lesson. Staff will monitor students' responses and give praise and warnings as they would normally in any classroom.

If deemed necessary, staff may remove a student from the live lesson if their behaviour is having a negative impact on the learning and/or well-being of others.

Is written work being sent home for students that have no internet access?

On this occasion it is not possible to provide written copies of the live lessons being delivered ahead of tomorrow – instead students requiring written work can work from their Knowledge Organiser, testing themselves against the core knowledge and definitions for the subjects they would have had.

Does any written work completed remotely need to be handed in? Will it be marked?

Written work completed remotely can of course be handed in. Staff are happy to give feedback regarding the quality and accuracy of any work completed.

If students don't attend the live lessons do they get marked as absent?

No, they will not be marked as absent. As the school site is closed to students, attendance will be recorded universally to reflect this – students will not be penalised.

What if I am unable to supervise my child or do not agree with them learning in this way?

It is our responsibility to consider the best way we can provide learning during periods of disruption and ensure that provision is made – we feel we have done this, based on both feedback from parents and what we are able to deliver.

Live lessons are the best way forward.

That said, although we would hope parents are supportive and would want learning to continue, it is for parents to decide what they want their child to do on these days.

I am hopeful that we will see good online turnout tomorrow, and we're looking forward to helping students maintain a routine. We will not have capacity to follow up with parents why their child did not attend their live lesson, unless we believe this is the result of a safeguarding concern.

Richard Burgas 07.12.23