

Newsletter

8th January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

The New Year has certainly not started in the way that we had all hoped. I expect that many people will be feeling anxious and concerned about the weeks and months ahead, as we have just entered another national lockdown. I hope that everyone in our school community knows that we are here to support you, via telephone, virtually and in person if needed. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need support.

As a school we will do our very best to continue to provide a high quality education to your child/children regardless of whether they are working remotely from home or if they are in school as a vulnerable child or child of a critical worker. Our priorities over the coming weeks and months are to ensure that every child continues to feel part of the school community, continues to see, hear and feel cared for by their class teacher and our school, continues to receive a high quality curriculum, is supported with their school work and that every child is able to maintain positive mental health and well-being.

We are in uncertain times but we can be reassured that as we strive to keep going that there is light at the end of the tunnel, vaccines are on their way and Spring time will soon be here.

Words of the Aaronic blessing:

May the Lord bless you and take care of you;

May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;

May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace. (Good News Translation)

Sarah Boyle

Headteacher

REMOTE LEARNING

Thank you to all parents and carers who are supporting your child/children at home with remote learning. We hope that everyone has now been able to access Google Classroom and has begun to undertake the remote learning. If anyone has any problems with accessing Google Classroom please do contact school as soon as possible and we will try to resolve this for you.

Whilst we hope that you will be able to support your child with their learning we understand that many people will be working from home whilst also trying to support with remote learning. Please be kind to yourselves and your family. We understand that every family will have different circumstances and be able to support more at different times of the day or on different days. Please do not worry and put unnecessary pressure on yourselves to complete the work with your child/children if on one day it is

just not possible. We appreciate that everyone is doing their best and there will be other days when you are able to provide more support. Let's try to safeguard everyone's mental health and well-being.

Exercise books are available for all children who are working remotely, to complete some of their Google Classroom work in. Please do come and collect an exercise book from reception if you need one, these will continue to be available to anyone who has not yet collected one.

We are not currently able to print off work for all children. Most work can be completed in the exercise book, or by downloading and annotating the sheet on the device. We have added a video to Google Classroom that explains how you can annotate work on your device. Please get in touch if you have specific issues.

We are aware that few households will have a device available for each child. However, we have recently been made aware that the Xbox or PlayStation can be used to access Google Classroom. With the addition of a keyboard plugged in it will be easier to navigate, however tasks set on Google Classroom can be seen and videos can be watched without a keyboard.

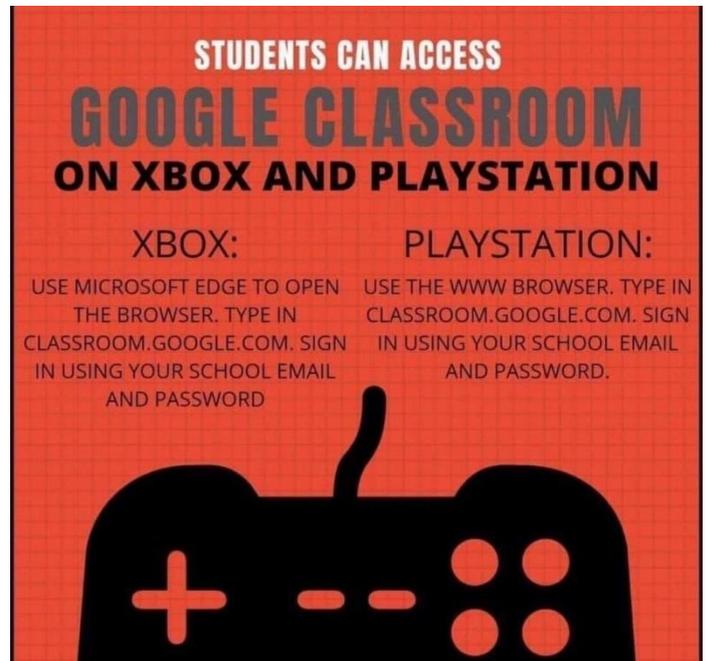
If you are struggling with access to Google Classroom please do get in touch and we will try our best to help you.

Please continue to use Oxford Owl for reading support. Log in details are available on your child's Google Classroom page.

We have taken the decision not to provide 'live' lessons at this time. There are a number of reasons for this: we don't feel that all lower school aged children would be able to access a live lesson and continue to be engaged throughout a highly structured and timetabled day, in front of a device, that would be necessary to deliver live lessons. It puts immense pressure on households where there are a number of children, who may not have a device each. We believe it is important that every child can work at their own pace and whilst working at home at a time that is suitable to them, a live lesson would not provide the opportunity for this. We hope that with the resources and videos that we have provided children can access at a time suitable for them and can watch the video again if required.

Teachers will maintain contact with the children who are attending school when they are in school. To enable children who are learning remotely from home to keep in touch with their class teacher there will be a phone call home to speak with your child every other week. There will not be a scheduled time for this but if teachers make a call and can't get through they will try another time. If it is not convenient please do not hesitate to say and we will call another time. We hope that this short personal phone call will help to maintain positive relationships between pupil and teacher and support mental health and well-being.

We will not be arranging whole class Zoom calls between school and pupils, however this may be something you would like to arrange between a small group of known friends and your child.



IN SCHOOL PROVISION

Whilst most children will access their learning remotely during this national lockdown period we understand that this is not possible for all children. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers are eligible to attend school. However, The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, made a statement to the House of Commons about the closure of schools in England during the national lockdown.

He stated that schools have not suddenly become unsafe but limiting the number of children and students who attend them is essential to curb the escalating cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the country and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed.

Therefore, we strongly urge all families to carefully consider if it is necessary for your child to be in school full time if they can safely be looked after at home on any days.

Places have been allocated for the week beginning 11th January. If your child has already been granted a place this will continue, there is no need to book again.

If you are eligible and require a place from week beginning 18th January for a vulnerable child or because you are a critical worker please do so via the link below.

<https://forms.gle/42QFCe53juve7EbZ7>

This form will close at 12pm on a Wednesday and re-open for the following week's requests at 8am each Thursday for any new requests.

If you have already booked a place for your child/they are already attending in school provision you do not need to rebook.

CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

We have been delighted with the way that the children who are in school have returned after the holiday and adjusted to another lockdown situation.

We listen to children read whilst they are in school however we will not be sending reading books between home and school at this time. Please continue to use Oxford Owl for reading support at home. Log in details are available on your child's Google Classroom page.

Children in school are all accessing the same Google Classroom work that is set for remote learning. It is being marked in school and feedback provided. This will not be uploaded onto Google Classroom but the work will be seen by the class teacher.

COVID SYMPTOMS

If you or your child becomes symptomatic you and your family must self-isolate and arrange to be tested as soon as possible. Delays to being tested and then awaiting test results could put others at risk.

If your child subsequently has a positive test it is essential that you contact school as soon as possible and we will contact trace for the 48 hours prior to symptoms starting or the result of a positive test if they were asymptomatic.

COMMUNICATION

Just a reminder that our telephone number is 01525 860247 and our email is (admin@silsoelower.co.uk)

Whilst we try and check the email regularly we ask that this means of contacting us should not be used when informing us of things such as appointments or pick-ups relating to that same day. Sometimes events overtake us and emails may not be checked until out of school hours.

Silsoe Pre-school can be reached on 01525 864938.

Using our answerphone – Please could you ensure that if reporting a pupil absent you choose option 1 and then option 1 again. At this point you have to wait for the recording asking you to leave a message after the tone. Once you've heard the tone you're good to go with your message.

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Thank you to all those families who have signed up to receive regular communications from the school. Please make sure you open messages, read them carefully and respond where necessary. Bits of paper sent home often get lost and this is not a secure way to liaise with our families going forward.

Website

For information about our school, our calendar and class news please visit:
<https://www.silsoeschool.co.uk>

Each class has their own page with lots of information about the term ahead, please do take a look.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Our vision is to be an excellent, God-centred, values-based, community-focused school where everyone is welcomed, encouraged and included.

Our children will develop as creative, determined learners and responsible citizens inspired to achieve their God-given potential and live life in all its fullness. We will foster understanding, tolerance and forgiveness within our caring Christian community.

