



Joy Lane Primary School

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms DJ Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

Wednesday 27th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Remote Learning Blended Provision

I continue to be amazed and thankful for your efforts in supporting your child's home learning – our Teachers are working extremely hard to find the most 'appropriate' blended learning opportunities for our children whilst being mindful that everyone's personal and home circumstances are different. I am very conscious too of the increased workload that the current situation is creating for our teaching staff, as well as for you as parents as you facilitate the learning. The numbers of children attending school remain high, which is requiring almost all of our teaching staff on site juggling the commitment to providing face-to-face care as well as attending to the needs of those pupils working from home.

Live or Recorded Lessons - Which is Best?

A recent study in remote learning carried out by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) concluded that when it came to considerations around what worked best – live or recorded lessons - 'that teaching quality is more important than how online lessons are delivered. What matters is ensuring the elements of effective teaching are present – such as clear explanations, scaffolding, and feedback – and whether those explanations build clearly on pupils' prior learning or how pupils' understanding is subsequently assessed.'

The study was inconclusive on whether live or recorded material had the greater impact on pupil outcomes and again came back to the quality of what and how concepts were being taught rather than the medium they were being taught through.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/news/eef-blog-live-teaching-and-pre-recorded-video-lessons-what-does-the-evidence-say/>

Current DFE guidance also makes clear that 'characteristics of good teaching are more important than the medium of delivery'. We know that we cannot recreate the powerful impact that live teaching in the classrooms has remotely but we continue to be committed to ensuring the best possible remote learning experience to continue to inspire a love of learning for every pupil.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-good-practice/remote-education-good-practice>

We have been receiving lots of feedback from you with regards to our Joy Lane offer, the vast majority of which I am very pleased to report is very positive indeed. We recognise that there is currently a wide spectrum of thought on this subject ranging from some families feeling completely overwhelmed with the amount of work being set to those who would like more live lessons. When planning how we will continue to approach remote learning, we will always take into account this range of views as well as considering any limitations or barriers that some of us are likely to experience.

Support for our Parent Community

I would like to reassure all parents and carers that you are doing a great job, whatever your personal circumstances are, and I want you to know that all of us at Joy Lane recognise how difficult home learning can be at times. Please remember it is OK if there is a lack of structure, a few tantrums, late bedtimes, too much time on the PlayStation or Xbox, and children's work is not always finished and uploaded.

We know we have high expectations, which are in line with government guidance, and there is a lot of work each week. All we ask is that you try your best, even if it is a quick thirty minutes reading, practising times tables online, and the odd bit of uploaded work to Dojo. We do not want you to feel that the school is putting added pressure on you when you are trying to look after children, hold down a job and earn a living. Everyone's circumstances are different and we appreciate that!

Data and Devices

If you are experiencing data deficiency on your mobile device to support your child's learning, I have acquired a few 30GB Vodaphone data SIM cards from the DfE. In addition, we also have a few additional devices which have been donated; please contact our school office if you would like to apply for one of these, and we will do our very best to support you if we are able to do so.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week (1st – 7th February), and we are looking forward to fully embracing this as a whole school, dedicating our live sessions and wider curriculum activities to all things wellbeing - just what is needed during these challenging times! The theme for the week is 'Express Yourself', which is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas, through creative means such as art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama – all activities that make you feel good! Teachers will lead games, circle time, discussions and other fun, creative activities, all designed to make you smile. Your usual live session timings will stand, and teachers will still provide you with a remote learning overview and accompanying resources to support you with your child's learning and activities for the week.

Please be assured that we are all working incredibly hard at the moment providing both on site and remote education against the backdrop of the worst national health crisis this country has experienced. This is a difficult time for us all, and as ever, your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated.

I am hopeful that in the coming week we are able to offer a calm, creative week, which will surely be a welcome pause for everyone in a long, grey term!

Keep going, you are doing a fabulous job.

Warmest regards and wishes that you all remain well.

DJ Hines

Debra Hines
Executive Headteacher