Shaftesbury Primary School remote learning action plan

Overview

In the event of further school closures caused by Covid-19, Shaftesbury Primary School will continue to offer outstanding teaching and learning to all pupils via mixed media: online education platforms (PurpleMash), daily face to face interactions and more ‘traditional’ home learning. We are aware that not all children will have access to the relevant technology and this has been taken into account when deciding how best to continue our children’s education remotely.

Children’s welfare and wellbeing will always be a top priority when learning from home, for this reason all children have undertaken rigorous online safety lessons over the months of September and October. By having daily face to face contact with children in the event of a second lockdown, we hope that children’s motivation and love for learning will not be adversely effected. Any safeguarding issues can also be quickly recognised and reported to the Safeguarding Leads. Any child who is continually absent from online classes and does not have any contact with the school will be investigated.

We know, via a Google Forms questionnaire, that only 70% of our families have access to either a laptop or desktop computer, whilst almost all (99%) have access to the internet via a smart phone. When siblings are taken into account, we understand that we cannot expect children in our classes to be learning online for more than a few hours each day. It is for this reason that we cannot operate a full school day via Zoom or similar face to face technology. Instead we plan to use a mixture of face to face, PurpleMash, Google Classrooms and more traditional homework tasks as set out below.

Google classroom

The importance of quality modelling and explanation time for learning cannot be overestimated. In order to provide outstanding learning opportunities for all children we must continue this even when teaching remotely. I propose:

* All children to have a Google account created and activated.
* English, maths and topic work to be uploaded to Google Classroom every day in line with the school’s curriculum.
* Teachers will record short video tutorials explaining the learning to children which will be uploaded alongside the tasks that have been set.
* Well-being videos will be uploaded by teachers and 1:1 TAs will provide short videos for their children in case of self-isolation.
* During computing lessons in Autumn 2, all children will be taught how to log in to and complete work on Google classroom.
* On-going training will be available to all staff and children on request.

‘traditional’ home learning

Whilst we wish to stay in contact with our children on a daily basis, we understand that not all households are able to provide the necessary equipment. Where during the initial lockdown we were providing a weekly task sheet providing a whole week’s worth of learning, I propose we move to daily activities. Each day would include a maths lesson, an English lesson and a topic lesson.

* Daily maths, English and topic lessons simplified to suit a child working with a parent or older sibling.
* Hard copies of week’s lessons available from school reception on request.
* Clear links between learning set and tools available on PurpleMash to support the learning outcomes.
* Children who could not commit to three ‘face to face’ sessions each day would not miss out and would be able to re-join the class at the next session without being held back.
* Homework books to be used initially to safely collect children’s home learning.
* Teachers will make phone calls *only* to those children who are not attending Zoom lessons.

PurpleMash

During the initial school closure of Spring-Summer 2020, we were able to set and mark work on the PurpleMash platform. Our children and teachers are now extremely adept at the use of this software its continued use will add yet another dimension to our remote learning, especially for younger children in Key Stage One and below. As the platform offers activities covering the whole of our curriculum it can be used to challenge pupils who are more able to work from home. PurpleMash will continue to be used to:

* Set and mark topic work with more interactive input from the children, daily home learning will be supported by tools available on the platform.
* Set computing curriculum tasks exclusively using PurpleMash, this will ensure that all children are following the National Computing curriculum whilst simultaneously perfecting their media skills in other areas.
* Allow children access to the ‘2Mail’ app, allowing communication between peer groups and friends in class, whilst still being a closed system (teacher approval of messages required). This will greatly improve children’s mental wellbeing as well as being a clear channel of communication between teacher and pupil.

By combining these three aspects of home learning, I am confident that no child will have to go without whilst learning from home. With parental support, all children will still have access to an outstanding learning experience which mirrors the curriculum and opportunities that they would have been offered in school.

Mr Turner Computing Lead