



12th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much for your patience whilst we are ensuring our remote learning is available to all children and fully set up for live interaction. Last week we were able to provide a daily English lesson, daily Maths lesson, spelling or phonics, times table practice, science lesson, geography or history lesson, PE lesson, story time and wellbeing activities all on Seesaw or Tapestry (Reception class) for your child to access. We have chosen to use Seesaw or Tapestry (Reception) and recorded lessons in the main as this gives parents the flexibility to juggle working from home whilst helping children with remote learning (a task that can be tricky at the best of times). We would like to thank all parents for managing this at these difficult times and we can sympathise with you all.

The government has stated that we must provide at least 3 hours of learning for Key Stage 1 pupils and at least 4 hours for Key Stage 2 pupils per day. We are aware that we are providing in excess of the stated hours; this is to provide the opportunity to access further learning, for those who wish to. It is ok not to complete all the tasks set and in order for the activities to not 'stack up' in your notifications on Seesaw, just respond with 'skip' or 'done at school' and they will be removed from your to do list so you can prioritise the other work.

Our aim from Wednesday 13th January 2021 is to introduce 2 live sessions for all children not attending school, in Year 1 to 6, each day. Live sessions for Reception will start shortly; we will send more information later in the week. We are going to use 'Microsoft Teams' for this, which some of you may be familiar with. Teams can be downloaded as an app on a tablet or smart phone or can be accessed using the internet through Microsoft 365. Your child just needs their school email address and password to access this.

All children's email addresses follow the same format, firstnamesurname@hardenprimaryacademy.co.uk. So, Bob Smith's email address would be bobsmith@hardenprimaryacademy.co.uk. All children need to use the password **Harden20!** The password can be changed if you wish but we would not have access to this so keep a note of what it is.

During the live sessions your child will have contact with their class teacher and some children in their class. They will be given the opportunity to discuss the work set and iron out any issues or difficulties that may have arisen. The teachers will also share good work, give feedback as needed, recap teaching points and share stories and poems with the children. This will also be a good opportunity for the children to interact with some of their class, have a chat and enjoy spending time together virtually, which is good for everyone's wellbeing.



The timetable for the live sessions are as follows:

Year group	Morning session	Afternoon session
1	10.00am	2.30pm
2	11.00am	2.00pm
3	10.30am	1.00pm
4	11.30am	3.00pm
5	9.30am	1.30pm
6	9.30am	1.30pm

Each class has got a different time for their live sessions to allow siblings/households who are sharing devices to all have the opportunity to access the sessions.

These sessions are not compulsory, as I understand that some parents working hours will be such that children may not be able to access a device at that time. However, we would encourage your child to access some of the sessions each week.

Please find attached to this email a guide to using teams and a remote learning plan with a suggested timetable to include the live sessions for each year group. The timetable does not need to be followed and this is just a suggestion as we understand some parents need more flexibility working around their hours of work.

If you would like some reading books or would like to borrow books from our library to read, please email your child's year group and request these. They will then be ready to collect the next working day (from a drop box/pick up box from the porch area outside the school office).

All the staff in school are here to help you with any problems or concerns however big or small. Please contact us by email or phone and someone will be able help you.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Hutchinson
Headteacher