



THE SOLENT SCHOOLS

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09 October 2020

Home Learning – Microsoft Teams

Dear Parents and Carers

We continue to be impressed with the countless successes Microsoft Teams has brought to Solent from when it was first introduced back in March. Since then, we have experienced a highly effective roll out across the Solent Schools, providing us with a fantastic tool for remote learning; a tool through which we have learnt to communicate as staff, share remotely with parents and carers and also used to support our pupils in their learning journey, both at home and at school.

Much of this success has been down to the way in which our Solent families and our staff have engaged and supported us along the way. We thank you all for that!

The intention, since the beginning, has simply been to provide our pupils with a high impact, progressive, remote learning experience that both enhances their education and engages them fully in this process.

We have all been on a virtual learning journey, adults and children alike, and we continue to learn together as we improve this provision yet further shaping it to suit our school and our learners big and small!

Today, we are very pleased to be able to share with you the next stage in this exciting journey involving 'Interactive Home Learning'.

Since the summer term, our teachers have been posting home learning tasks to your child's 'Class Team' using the Microsoft Teams App. You and your child have been accessing, viewing, downloading or printing these.

We are now delighted to be able to share the next stage in this development. This involves a greater level of interaction between your child and their class teacher. Each year group will move forward at their own pace in this process, dependent on their age and stage and also how confident they are.

Stage 1 will involve your child's class teacher setting their home learning through the '**Assignments**' tab in their Class Team. This will begin during the week beginning Monday 19th October. Class teachers will explain this process in more detail in the class. You will also be receiving a recorded tutorial to support you in helping your child to access this! Details regarding how to access this will be sent out nearer the time.

Each piece of home learning will have a 'due date'. Pupils will be asked to submit their home learning onto Teams by this due date. Once they have done so, teachers will then feedback to your child individually via Teams. Please note, that if your child submits their home learning late, they will not be able to receive feedback.

Stage 2 will involve the introduction of the use of '**Class Notebook**' within Teams. Pupils will only be introduced to this once the class teacher feels that the class are ready. The advantage to the 'Class Notebook' function, is that your child's class teacher can share documents individually with your child. Your child can then work on their own version of the document (perhaps enhancing, answering questions, editing or responding to a task) and return these to the class teacher. The class teacher is then able to mark the work and provide written or audio feedback to your child.

The timescale within which this is introduced will depend largely on the age and stage of your child, how confident the group are with the use of Teams and how well the learning tasks lend themselves to this type of interaction. Once again, when your child's class are ready to move on, you will be provided with a recorded tutorial to support you in helping your child!

These functions will be used weekly to set and then feedback with respect to home learning tasks. There may be occasions when your child is set an alternative task from programs such as 'Purple Mash'. If this is the case, then the class teacher will provide a post on the Class Teams page outlining the instructions.

What will happen if my child's whole class bubble has to self-isolate or if school has to close?

If for any reason your child's whole class bubble has to self-isolate and learn remotely, then the learning that they are set will rely entirely on Microsoft Teams communication. On day 1 your child will be set three tasks (Maths, English and Theme). They will be asked to complete these in the same way that they access their weekly home learning tasks, submitting them before a set time for feedback. This will not apply if an individual child or small group are self-isolating.

From day 2 onwards and for the remainder of the time that they are self-isolating (excluding weekends, bank holidays, school holidays and inset days), your child will be expected to participate in three timetabled sessions during the school day. For now, these will not involve any 'live' teaching sessions (this may be included later on), but will involve recorded input prior to a task (uploaded and accessed daily via Teams) and also feedback following the completion of tasks. During each of these sessions, pupils will have the option to ask any work-related questions whilst they are completing the tasks, again via Teams.

The way in which they are asked to submit their work will depend largely on how far along they are with Microsoft Teams and will reflect how they have been asked to complete their weekly home learning up until that point.

We understand that you may face some technical difficulties when accessing this learning. For this reason, we have added a 'Technical Support' section to each of our school websites. This can be found included in the 'School Life' drop down menu.

As you can see, our remote learning provision is progressing day by day. This is only possible thanks to the engagement and support of all our Solent families and staff. Without this, we simply would not be able to progress so effectively! We would like to thank you all once again for your kind support and are very much looking forward to sharing even more remote developments over the coming academic year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Burnett', with a stylized, cursive style.

G Burnett

Network Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L Wilby', with a cursive style.

L Wilby

Executive Headteacher