

Malorees Infant and Junior School Newsletter



Friday 16th April

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all well. On behalf of the whole staff team we are missing you a great deal and look forward to the time that we can all be reunited. We don't know exactly when this will be as we are following government guidance.

We do not usually send communication over the holiday period, but we wanted to stay in touch before we start the new summer term which officially starts on Monday 20th April. Regrettably, however, we will not be seeing you in person, but throughout we are thinking of you and missing you all a great deal.

We appreciate the challenges on parents/carers whilst you are juggling your own families in addition to supporting your child/children with learning from home. We appreciate everything you are doing, and we want to **congratulate you** in managing this as best you can. We understand that this will look different for each family and that everyone must 'navigate' around these challenging times in their own way. Above all, we want everyone within our school community to keep themselves safe, positive and healthy.

In our last newsletter we outlined that we would be making some changes to our online learning arrangements. Prior to the holiday, we set up work for a two-week period using the resources that both staff and children were already familiar with in school. Based on our own research, we will be transitioning to use a new online system **Google Classroom** over the next few weeks. This is widely used in Secondary schools and increasingly now within in Primary schools. We have made this decision on the basis that we need to invest in a new online platform to support learning from home for an extended period and as a resource to invest in the longer term, whilst providing more options/resources. This will take us a few weeks to fully embed.

We shall be implementing this new system on a 'phased basis'. This will ensure that we can 'transition over' in a realistic and manageable way.

What will be the new arrangements?

Week 1 -Transition Week (after the Easter break, week starting Monday 20th April)

- **We will continue to use our current systems for this week in each school, so you are familiar with how to access the learning resources.**

Alongside this, we will be doing the preparations needed to move over to a new online platform. This will include setting up all the logins for the Junior School followed by the Infant School at a later date.

Malorees Infant and Junior School Newsletter



- We will be surveying families to find out if there is a shortage of IT equipment within the home and ensuring equipment can get to those families that genuinely have the need.
- We will be 'rolling out' staff training in Week 1 for the new online learning platform as we wanted to make sure that all staff had a decent break over the holiday period. Usually training of this kind this would not all be managed remotely, so we need some additional lead -in time. Teachers will be doing this training alongside the preparation and monitoring of the daily online activities for their classes.
- **A Guide for Junior Parents** will be circulated next week to give you and your children time to adjust to the changes in preparation for the following week.

Week 2 (Week starting April 27th)

- **We expect the set up for Google Classroom to be ready in the Juniors.** The Infant school will be using this week to ensure their set up is ready for the transition/lead-in. In the meantime, accessing online learning from the Infant school website will continue to be available.
- By this point, we hope to have clarity about which families need additional IT support within the home. The **PSFA** have very kindly offered some funding during this period for families known to the school as in need of further assistance. We will be using this specific funding allocation to purchase additional equipment to support children's access to home learning opportunities.

A special thanks to all our teachers who have worked so hard to get the learning activities prepared, with a special acknowledgment to our Computing leads, **Christopher Grey (Infants)** and **Patrick Martin (Juniors)**. Equally, this would not be possible without the ongoing assistance from our IT team, Ram and Sena who have continued to support us throughout this time.

During this unprecedented period, we are all finding our way with adjusting to the different expectations and ways of living, which includes our hard-working staff team, whilst looking after ourselves and our wider family needs. Your patience and co-operation with the school is greatly appreciated whilst we make these changes to support teaching and learning.

With our best wishes for the new week and term ahead.

Sian Davies

Executive Headteacher

Malorees Infant and Junior School

Sarah Harris

Head of School

Malorees Junior School