



Winwick CE Primary School
Myddleton Lane, Winwick
Warrington, WA2 8LQ
email: winwick_primary@warrington.gov.uk
Telephone: (01925) 630995

Monday 11th May 2020

HOME LEARNING UPDATE & SCHOOL OPENING RESPONSE

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Opening Response to Government Announcement on 10.05.20

As we begin another week of home learning, we would first like to acknowledge the Government announcement that was made yesterday evening. As part of their staged plan to exit lockdown, the Government have said, if the tests and infections rates at that time allow, there will be a phased return to school for pupils in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception, taking place after the June half term.

Today, the Government will be releasing further details and guidance linked to these announcements. In turn, this will be reviewed by Warrington Local Authority, who will then also provide Warrington schools with guidance at a more local level. Following this, school will then use all the information provided to ensure that we have a carefully considered plan for the reopening of Winwick for some groups of pupils, which will have the safety of our staff and those pupils as a key priority. School Leaders will meet today to begin discussions and to formulate a skeleton plan on which to build once all the guidance is in place from the Government and Local Authority.

While we appreciate that you will be keen to find out more information about this, as mentioned in the newsletter on Friday, we need to make sure that we have had time to review all available information carefully before communicating out to parents how we envisage this will work for us at Winwick. Once we have a clear plan, this will be shared with you at the earliest possible opportunity. But again, we would like to reassure you that all the decisions that we make will have the safety of staff and pupils as our main priority.

Home Learning Update

Following feedback from a number of parents, we will now be turning on our new home learning pages/PINGing out resources on a Sunday evening as we have been made aware that lots of you like to get your resources prepared the day before so that you are ready to start the following morning.

In addition to this, we are also aware that the number of weekly communications between home and school has increased due to the nature of the children learning at home. Because of this, unless there is a specific need to, we will now be trying to streamline this information so that there are set days when information will be communicated

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out to you. This will hopefully support you when trying to plan your own week's as well as trying to manage your child's home learning. We will now provide information on the following days:

- **Sunday evening:** All class learning pages on the school website will be turned on and any resources that cannot be put onto the website for that week will be scheduled to be sent via School PING so that they are all ready for home learning to begin on the Monday.
- **Monday:** Home Learning Update letter will be sent. In this letter we will signpost you to any new resources for the whole school and any additional information linked to home learning that is new for that week. (Sent via PING and also on the website.)
- **Friday:** Weekly newsletter giving any end of week updates/messages. (Sent via PING and also on the website.)

We have asked class teachers to ensure that any PINGs that are sent for their class contain the class name in the subject box so they are easier to differentiate if you have more than one child in school. Where possible, we will now not be sending other documentation linked to home learning on other days during the week so that it is easier to keep track of the information that you are being sent.

Keeping in Touch

We welcome photographs/videos/electronic copies of children's work being sent to us so that we can see what they have been doing. These can be emailed to your child's class teacher via the school office at winwick_primary@warrington.gov.uk; please put FAO [name of teacher] in the subject and it will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff.

In addition to the work that the children have been doing, we also welcome information about the other things that the children have been doing while they are at home. Staff will continue to make contact with all families via telephone calls home to check in with you as parents and also the children to make sure that you are all okay and to offer support if you need it. Although the office is not manned, we are able to pick up answerphone messages, so you can leave a message, but if you require a more prompt response, we advise you to email the office.

For those of you who use it, the PTFA Facebook page gives the school community a great way to stay connected; but the school website/PING remain the key places where all information/home learning information can be found. We would also ask that you are mindful of our staff's privacy; if you need to contact us for anything linking to school, please email the school office and we will get back to you in working hours.

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Key Reminders

We understand that these are challenging times and we know that a lot of our parents are working from home or have other challenges, which means that trying to support your child's learning (and for some of you, more than one child's learning) isn't an easy task. There is no expectation of parents to take on the role of our teachers and teaching assistants during this time. We have provided you with a range of resources for children to access to support their learning, along with links to useful websites and online tools (e.g. Purple Mash, SumDog, TTRockstars, Evidence Me), but we DO NOT expect that children will complete all of these activities; nor do we expect that children will complete every activity that has been shared with class teachers on their class pages. Instead, we want to provide you with a wide selection of different activities and resources so that you have enough range and that there will be enough choice to cater for all children's needs. Please DO NOT put pressure on yourselves to try and replicate what we do in the classrooms, as we know that this is an impossible task.

As a school, what is most important for us, is that our children are safe and happy during this time so that we are all able to return once it is safe to do so. To help you do this, we recommend that you keep the children in some form of daily routine;

- getting up at their usual times and getting dressed and ready for the day, like they would normally do
- having meals at their usual times, with snack breaks during the day
- going to bed at their usual time, with the same bedtime routines

In terms of learning time, we understand that all families, and children, are different and so recommend that you find a system that works best for your family. Depending on the age of your child, we advise no more than 3 hours of learning per day. Older children should be encouraged to work more independently, wherever possible.

If you are struggling to access home learning due to lack of internet access or only have limited access to online learning because you only have a mobile phone, please email the school on winwick_primary@warrington.gov.uk, or leave an answer phone message by calling the school office so that we can support you with this.

Although we can't be together in person, school are still here if you need us for help and support. The best (and quickest) way to get in contact with us is to email us at winwick_primary@warrington.gov.uk and you can also leave us an answer phone message by calling the school office; although please note that our office is not currently manned so messages are not checked as regularly as they would be during a normal working day.

Thank you for your continued support, with the warmest of wishes,

The Winwick Team

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Community is much more
than belonging to something;
it's about doing
something together that
makes belonging matter.

—Brian Solis

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