



8 January 2021

Headteacher: Mrs C Hurst BA(hons) PGCE NPQH NLE

Dear Parents and Carers

REMOTE LEARNING, ACCESS TO LAPTOPS & INCREASING DATA ALLOWANCES

We thought it may be useful to reiterate our approach to education during the current lockdown to reassure any parents. It is early days and we know that many of you are accessing your lessons very successfully, so hopefully we will be able to support all families to be able to do so very soon.

Remote Learning Offer

The Government has made it a legal duty for schools to provide remote education for those pupils who are either not entitled to be present in school during this national lockdown or are isolating due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Government has set out its own criteria for schools and academies in order to meet this duty. These are:

- *set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects*
- *set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, and as a minimum: primary: 3 hours a day, on average, across the school cohort*
- *provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos*
- *have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern*
- *gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate*
- *enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.*

Weekly & Daily Expectations

As previously communicated, our academy's offer is via Class Dojo as follows:

- Daily Hello message to each class with a visual timetable – written or video
- Daily set and assessed English work which may include the following:
 - Daily phonics sessions for KS1 and as needed in KS2
 - Weekly handwriting sessions
 - Weekly reading lessons using our VIPERs approach
 - 3 spelling sessions
- Daily set and assessed Maths work which may include the following:
 - Time Tables Rock-Stars
 - Flashback 4
- 3 assemblies with a social, moral, spiritual, cultural or British Value focus.

Because our families all have different and busy lives, our afternoon sessions may be undertaken at your family's convenience and leave you free to take a break together.

Sessions will include:

- Weekly: Physical Activity
- Weekly: PSHE/Mental Health/E-Safety and Well-being Activities
- Child's daily reading. Children to read daily and upload a recording of themselves reading at least once per week.
- Additional Core or Foundation Subject Tasks
- Story time (recorded) A recording of teacher or teaching assistant reading the class reader each week or an equivalent video from DFE approved resources
- Rhyme & Poetry time
- Nursery Rhyme or poem per week to learn and return as a video of child reciting or reading

Staff will be available every morning to answer any queries and feedback on work. Messages can't be answered during the afternoon but teachers will still be uploading and marking work. Work will be uploaded by 8.45am each day and up to 3pm. Teachers will differentiate work and provide resources and supports for pupils who need them. Intervention support will also be provided for identified pupils. Any child with an EHCP will have an individually differentiated curriculum and children with Special Educational Needs will receive support to access their class work.

Academy Contact for any Concerns or Questions

We are here to help and have various support tutorials we can send to you to support your learning. Miss Devi, our Deputy Head Teacher is undertaking the role of Monitoring and Quality Assuring our Remote Learning Offer. If you would like to discuss the content of our offer or have any concerns about your child's remote learning at home, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance via class Dojo. If you are not satisfied or still have concerns, then please contact Miss Devi via e-mail on admin@glaptonacademy.co.uk. If after speaking to your teacher and Miss Devi you are still not satisfied, contact Mrs Hurst also via admin@glaptonacademy.co.uk.

We would be pleased to answer your questions and support you to help your children at home during this current school closure.

Device Provision

As you may be aware, the government have provided a small amount of laptops to schools to support the most vulnerable pupils at home to access their learning. We have received a supply of 36 laptops which have been delivered to our Trust today and LEAD IT Services are working hard to set them up for children to be able to use at home. Once they are ready and received into school, they will be available to lend to identified families. Each laptop will only be available after the signing of a strict loan agreement between the school (on behalf of the Trust) and the parent and pupil. We will also use a number of laptops to ensure that our children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils are able to access their learning whilst in our care. Most of these will be from our current supply of laptops. We are aware that it has been widely publicised on the TV and media that these laptops are being made available, but please understand that we are not in a position to lend any devices until they are properly set up with the correct software, virus protection, firewalls, security settings etc.

For any families who believe that they do not currently have access to a suitable electronic device please:

- **Contact us via admin@glaptonacademy.co.uk**
- **Use the subject title "Device Provision"**
- **State clearly your child's name and class**
- **Provide full details of your family's current IT circumstances.**

The government have also announced today that they will be providing more laptops and tablets to schools to support remote education. All secondary schools have been invited to order these already and primary schools will be invited to order over the coming weeks, starting with the most disadvantaged areas in England. The DfE will contact each school by e-mail as soon as they can order. We will let you know as soon as this happens.

Please note that we will be unable to share any information on which families have received a school laptop on loan.

There has also been some discussion around the use of Games Consoles to access some remote learning. LEAD IT Services have tested Teams access on Xbox X and Xbox S which appears to work well. We will be able to share a brief video guide on how to do this as an alternative way for pupils to access remote learning if this proves to be possible via Class Dojo.

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children

We can ask the Trust to request help to increase mobile data allowances for children who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education.

Mobile data increases can also be requested when we report a closure or have pupils self-isolating. We can also make requests for children who cannot attend school face-to-face because they are clinically extremely vulnerable or restrictions prevent them from going to school. If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also request 4G wireless routers. This all has to be done via the Trust and we will be sending out a form next week to collect information on who this might apply to, which will request the following information:

- the account holder's name
- their mobile number (a number beginning with '07')
- their mobile network
- whether they pay monthly or pay as you go

We will also need to send the relevant privacy policy to the account holder. If this applies to you, please look out for the form and complete/return it as quickly as possible.

Paper work packs

Please let your teacher know during a welfare call or via an e-mail to admin@glaptonacademy.co.uk if you feel that you will not be able to access remote learning online and need a paper work pack instead. Please clearly detail why this is the case. Please also note that this would preclude you from accessing a school-loaned device.

I do hope you have found the above information helpful and hope it has addressed some speculation arising from various media reports. Please feel welcome to contact us with any queries.

On a positive note, we are only two days in to our full remote learning offer and know many families are interacting with this provision really positively. School staff are working incredibly hard and are committed to creating the best provision for you and your child. It is all new to them too, but they are learning new ways to improve our provision daily.

Thank you for your continued support and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher