



Laning, Dent, Sedbergh, Cumbria. LA10 5QJ Tel:01539625259

Email: admin@dent.cumbria.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Emma Pomfret

Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Internet Access and Remote Learning

I hope you are all well. I also hope you are starting to get over the shock and emotion of the sudden lockdown announcement and are managing to put in place things to cope with the situation. Although it might feel like a long time until February half term, at least this time we have the certainty that the lockdown situation will not change between now and then. Please keep hold of the hope that there are better things to come; it won't be long before Spring is with us and the vaccination program is now being rolled out.

I have included a booklet for you and your children about coping with lockdown. Please take a few minutes to read through it. It is there to support you.

Well done to everyone who has already been accessing their remote learning on Seesaw, it is great to see so many children engaging. As you know this time round there is an expectation that the children will engage with at least the core (Maths & English) remote learning we are providing. This is not an intense day of home schooling but around 2-3 hours depending on the age of the children. Many of us are parents ourselves, we really do understand the pressures of trying to balance working at home and supporting home learning. So whilst we do expect children to join in with their learning, what we are providing for them each day it is not time specific so it can be completed when it fits in best with the other pressures of family life. Any Zoom calls that the children will have with school staff will of course have a scheduled time but staff will let the children know in advance and if they can't make it to all of them don't worry. If they are able to, ask your child to drop the teacher a message on Seesaw to say they can't make it then we know who to expect.

Remember – reading, reading, reading!! Regular reading with your child is the number one way you will have an impact on your child's education and unlock other learning to them. Try to make a time for a short daily reading session – anything that they are interested in goes – books, comics, magazines, instructions, recipes etc.

If you are having any difficulties with technology then please let us know and we will do our very best to help. We have been given details of how families can increase their internet allowance for children to be able to access online learning. There are two options, both have to be applied for through school and we can only apply for one option for each family.

Firstly, families may be able to get their mobile data temporarily increased for free. We can apply for mobile data increases for children and young people who:

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

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

School has to make the application on your behalf so if you would like us to make an application for this on your behalf please send the following information to Gwyn in the office (admin@dent.cumbria.sch.uk):

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

Each provider will vary in how quickly they process requests. My feeling is that they will be very busy at the moment so it could take a little bit of time to organise. Once a network provider has processed a data increase, they'll send a text message to the account holder.

The alternative is to apply for a 4G wireless router which is a compact digital device, sometimes referred to as 'dongles' or 'mobile wifi', that provide an internet connection wherever there is access to mobile networks.

Choose this option if:

- the extra data for mobile devices option is not suitable
- there's more than one child in the household who needs to learn remotely
- a mobile phone or tablet (tethered or not) is not regularly available for the child's use
- frequent phone calls to the mobile phone being used tend to interrupt school work
- the child is likely to access the internet without supervision

This is information that is provided through the DfE and we will support your applications but please be aware that we have no idea of time scales on these requests.

I have also become aware through social media that if you are struggling for devices at home that you can use X-Boxes and PlayStation to access Teams. I am not sure how you do this as I'm not familiar with these devices but if you need help I would suggest doing an internet search for some help.

Once again, safety and happiness remain priorities. Please look after yourselves and support each other. We are all in this together and all have our own challenges to face but you are not alone. In times like this a little kindness goes even further than normal.

The whole Dent team including myself are still here to help. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you need a call back then either leave a message on the school phone or drop us an email admin@dent.cumbria.sch.uk or head@dent.cumbria.sch.uk. Sometimes just a listening ear and an opportunity to get things off your chest is enough and if you need that please don't think you would be the first or the only one.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Emma Pomfret
Executive Headteacher