Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of term 3. We think you would join us in thinking this is not the start to the term any of us would have wished for. However, the circumstances we find ourselves in at the moment mean that this is the safest route for everyone. Even though it is not ideal, we will still endeavour to make these sessions effective and purposeful so that the children's learning continues. They had made such good progress in terms 1 and 2 and we are keen for this to continue.

We thought it would be useful for you if we outlined how remote working will work for your child. It is important to note that those children of critical workers who will be attending school will be accessing the same work as those working from home.

Primarily, work will be set through Google Classroom. You have had letters with all their log in details on for this. On Google Classroom, you will find an outline of a timetable of lessons we will be covering whilst working remotely. Each day, the lessons for that day will go live. These lessons are sequential and are designed to be done in this order. Therefore, if they miss a day, they will need to go back and complete the previous lesson first before attempting that day's lessons. The timings for the lessons are just as a guide. Where possible we have added a video link to help the children understand the work for that day.

Most of the work set is through Google docs or slides. It is useful to have both of these downloaded if using a mobile device but should both work normally if working on a laptop or pc. It is really important to get your child to 'hand in' their work on completion. Without this, we can not see the work completed or give feedback.

In terms of marking and feedback, we will regularly check the feed for the day and return the completed work to your child. It is worth knowing though that we are running a teaching rota in school and so your child's teacher may be in school teaching through the day and so feedback might not come until after school. It is worth reminding your child to go back and check their feedback as they may have corrections or improvements to make.

At the moment, we plan to host a zoom meeting with the class group once a week. If we feel we need to change this for any reason, then we will let you know. Our first meeting is planned for Thursday 7th January at 9.15am and the office will send you a link for it. Not everyone chose to sign the AUP for zoom meetings when they were sent out and so if you do not wish you child to take part then please ignore this invite. If you would like to sign this now so your child can take part then please email the office for an electronic form to sign and return.

We have set up a class blog on Purple Mash as we did during the last lockdown. This will be for the children to be able to chat to each other informally. We would really encourage you to keep the 'stream' on google classroom just for work related issues.

There are lots of other things the children can access if they have additional time. We will set up some battles on TT rockstars. They can complete some of the games or activities on mymaths or purple mash. They should still be reading regularly. They can also link the spelling words with practising their handwriting.

Our timetable also includes time for them to watch the day's episode of Newsround. We have found in class that this is really helpful and effective in helping the children make sense of what is going on around them at the moment. The web address for this will be the same each day https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/news/watch newsround

Finally, we just wanted to pass on our thanks to you in these trying times. We know that it is challenging trying to run home learning whilst also working from home. We will do our absolute best to support you as best we can. We know we may get things wrong and may need to change things as the time goes on but we will keep you informed of this as and when it is needed.

We look forward to linking up with many of you online tomorrow.