

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to thank you for responding to our Google Poll regarding your family's experiences during this long period of partial closure and to feedback on our remote learning offer. It is really helpful to us as a school to pre-empt any additional support a child may need as well as get some feedback on how we can improve our remote learning offer in the event of a partial or full lockdown in future. We had 73 responses in total and there was a good spread across year groups as well as families who did and did not access the school provision from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your kind words of support in the responses and a recognition that whilst the remote offer may not have been perfect, we all did the best we could in the circumstances. This has been a time of great challenge but as a community, we have pulled together to support one another virtually. It has been particularly challenging for those of you having to continue working as well as have your children at home for nearly 6 months. We salute you!

We have explored the remote learning offer as a staff and it was reassuring to see that as a staffing and parent body, we agree about the main areas we would like to continue with in regarding to remote learning and the areas we need to improve. In most cases technology was not an issue but where it was, it was related to having one device between siblings. This is challenging in that when being required to work remotely, we physically cannot supply a whole school with printed workbooks or technology for each child. However, we do recognise the need to balance computer work with non-computer-based learning.

**What went well:**

- ✓ Having quick access to an online platform with a range of tasks and challenges.
- ✓ Positive message boards from the teachers and celebrations of work i.e. class newsletter.
- ✓ When used in the latter end of lockdown, Zoom lesson introductions and live sessions were welcomed i.e. reading and phonics.
- ✓ Communication from the school has been consistent and clear.

**Areas to develop:**

- Use of timetables or scheduled work to create a clear expectation of what to achieve and by when. Most comments around this were linked with the layout of the SLE and a week's worth of work being uploaded in one go.
- More regular contact between the teacher and children beyond phone calls and within the learning.
- Feedback between the child and teacher regarding their learning.

Over the last half a term we have been exploring an online learning platform called 'Seesaw' which is a well-known remote learning tool in education and has been used successfully in another GEP school during lockdown. The platform is designed by parents and teachers and is therefore easy to navigate with apps for parents, teachers and children. The main reason we are looking into this platform is that the scope for feedback is fantastic from a sound bite of the teacher to an annotation of the children's work. The teachers will be able to schedule work to go live when needed rather than release everything in one go, allowing them to track who has been accessing the learning and who may need support. We plan to launch Seesaw in September for homework so that we are used to the system in the event of another lockdown.

We feel it is important for you to know that we value and act upon your feedback. If you included some information regarding your personal circumstances, please be reassured that I will personally

pass these onto your child's new class teacher. In many cases, this will be for their information but they may choose contact you in the new term if appropriate.

Have a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Many thanks,

Faye Johnstone  
Deputy Headteacher