

No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND NO 3 IN 2018

Top 10 National Pupil Progress

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



8th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Well, what a week but a successful week as we all settle into new patterns and rhythms of both remote and in-school learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the supportive messages we have received this week both at the school gate, over the phone when class teachers have called home or via the medium of technology. It has been an incredibly busy time for us all and we thank you for your support while we set up remote learning and iron out technical glitches. I continue to be amazed at just how resilient our children are throughout this time.



I am writing to you to both share more information or to answer some of the queries and questions that we have been asked this week. The letter is organised into two sections : one of these is for children who are accessing their education remotely at home and the other is for those in school. There is then a general paragraph at the end of the letter that is for all families.

Children accessing education remotely

We have been incredibly impressed with how well the children are adapting to their remote learning with lots of our wonderful children getting straight down to their learning over the last few days. Please do not panic if you are still getting to grips with Google Classroom and the remote learning as we know that this can pose many challenges in the home.

Teachers are on hand to help and I know many have been doing this through the phone calls they have had with you. If you need help or are struggling with the lack of technology or wi-fi, please do contact us so we can look at how we can help. We are all having to get used to new things at this time and I can assure you it is ok if this takes time!



DfE's Mobile Network Offer

Earlier today, I sent out an email to all parents and a Google form regarding the Department for Education's Mobile Network Offer. This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted. Only a handful of parents have completed this form so far so please have a look at the email and form from earlier today to see if you are eligible.



Department
for Education



Ilsham C of E Academy

Ilsham Road, Torquay,
Devon, TQ1 2JQ

T: 01803 292313 **E:** ilsham@lapsw.org

W: ilsham-lap.co.uk



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SIAMS Outstanding

TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

Government Laptop Scheme

The Department for Education is also providing laptops, Chrome books and tablets to schools to help children and families access remote education during this time. We have a small allocation which is due to arrive in school next week and we will be looking to get these, plus some Chrome books in school, out to families that need them.

Google Classroom - Some Technical information

Here is the link to our webpage with helpful guides and a video we have made about Google Classroom. <https://ilsham-lap.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Google-Classroom-Guide.pdf>



- If you need your login and passwords, please do not hesitate to contact the admin team for help.
- If you are accessing Google Classroom on a mobile device or tablet, you may need to download some Google Applications (APPS) - Google Docs and Google Presentation. These are both free.
- If children would like to complete their learning on paper, this can be shared with the teacher by taking a photo and uploading it to the Google Classroom Stream.

Feedback from parents

What a joy it has been to hear feedback from parents. There have been comments about the enjoyment levels of children, how well engaged they are plus how well the learning is structured. This is fantastic to hear so please keep telling us about what is working well alongside what we can do to further support remote learning.

Remember, if you have any problems, please contact our admin team via email, phone or text and they will ask your child's teacher to be in touch.

Staying Connected

Live Sessions

One of the things we know more than ever, is the importance of children staying connected with their friends and the value in families staying connected with both the school community and one another.



Each week, teachers in Y1 to 6 will offer three live sessions where pupils at home can log on through Google Classroom. (Children in school will also be joining) The sessions will last for 30 minutes each and will give teachers the opportunity to check-in and celebrate with their class in a range of ways. The sessions will be on the same days and at the same time each week as shared below. We have staggered these times as we know some children may need to share a digital device with their siblings and therefore cannot all be online at once.

Times/Day	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Rowans – Y1		2.00 – 2.30pm	2 – 2.30pm	11.30 am – 12.00pm	
Beeches – Y2		11.30 am – 12.00pm	11.30 am – 12.00pm	2 – 2.30pm	
Maples – Y3		1 – 1.30pm		1 – 1.30pm	1.45 – 2.15pm
Hollies – Y4			1 – 1.30pm	10.45 – 11.15 am	1 – 1.30pm
Oaks – Y5		2.30 – 3.00pm	2.30 – 3.00pm	2.30 – 3.00pm	
Monkey Puzzles – Y6		9.45 – 10.15am	9.45 – 10.15am	9.45 – 10.15am	

The class teacher will send the link you need to access 5 minutes before your session starts (through Google Classroom) and will admit you into the group.

Here is a reminder about what you need to do for these live sessions

When accessing these sessions please ensure the following:

- That your child will be working in a secure and appropriate environment and consider what can be seen on screen e.g. appropriate backgrounds.
- That all people attending the session are appropriately dressed.
- Please mute your sound to ensure there is no background noise or interference during the session. We will invite the children to unmute or use the chat at times during the session.

Children in the Reception class will continue to connect with their teacher through Tapestry.

Other ways of keeping in touch

Alongside the live sessions, teachers will be calling home and will aim to make contact once a week. If you miss a call from your child's teacher, they will automatically try you again during the week.

There is also the option to keep in touch with your teacher when they feed back on your learning and acknowledge the amazing work you are doing at home.

And as usual, there will be the weekly class newsletters which will come home again from next week onward.



ILSHAM

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Children Accessing Education in School:

The children accessing education in school have settled quickly into their mixed year bubbles and have sensibly followed the exact same safety measures as before. They have been accessing the same learning as those doing it remotely and have been super stars at cracking on with this. There is a wonderful buzz around the academy.

P.E

We have had questions about P.E and the wearing of P.E kits. The children will continue to do P.E although the team from The Spires Collage will not be able to come in at the moment but are sharing lots of brilliant ideas with us. Here are the P.E days, where we ask that children come in their (warm) PE kits.

Reception – Monday and Friday
Year 1 and 2 -Tuesday and Friday
Year 3 and 4 – Wednesday and Thursday
Year 5 and 6 – Monday and Tuesday

Please remember that it is full uniform on other days and extra layers may be needed as school is cool in places with the extra ventilation we are having as part of our safety measures.

Information for all parents

I am sure we are all more than aware now of the rules of this National Lockdown and what it means for us but we have included a link here regarding the rules. It is vitally important not just for our school community but the wider Torbay community that we are all following these rules.
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Please also remember that if anyone in your household develops COVID-19 symptoms, to isolate and book a test. Please keep us informed of any positive tests so we can be tracking in the community and offering support. For those children in school, we will continue to track any symptomatic child or household member straight away. If anyone in your household starts to develop symptoms, please book a test by calling 119 or using the link:
<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/coronavirus/restrictions/>

Finally, I know from the last lockdown how vital it is to stay connected and for us all to still feel part of the Ilisham family. Please remember that every single member of our team is here for you and are on hand whenever you need us. I hope that the live sessions will help to strengthen that connection.

Next week, we will send our Curriculum Overviews out for each year group, the class newsletters will resume, there will be three live sessions with class teachers and then the following weeks, we



will be looking to host some parent workshops and virtual coffee mornings as a further way of keeping in touch and supporting you.

As always, I will keep you updated with any changes from the Government and I have my thinking cap on as to other creative ways we can all come together.

Please look after yourselves and enjoy your weekend together.

My very best wishes and thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.A. Ryan".

Miss Ryan
(Head of Academy)