

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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Microsoft Teams Teacher consultation appointments

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Ref, Parent, carer / teacher consultation sessions.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

The dates for these to take place on the week starting Monday 7th December and will take place over the course of the week 2020.

Again, I apologise that we cannot arrange for face to face meetings with you. As time goes by it seems so long since we all had the opportunity to talk together about our children.

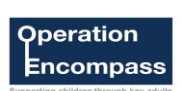
We are aiming to set up Microsoft TEAMS remote linkup calls with every family, except for class 3 who have already got Zoom set up due to their previous 2 week class isolation.

In addition, I am also writing to update you on how we are planning to share children's home learning going forwards. This will be particularly important should a class bubble in our school need to isolate and complete schoolwork from home.

We have been busy exploring different ways to upload the children's home learning activities; we trialed Purple Mash and have since supplemented this with a weekly class timetable containing links to learning resources. However, we appreciate there is an awful lot for parents to juggle at the moment, so we want to make things as simple and as user-friendly as possible.

After looking into different options, we have decided to use Microsoft Teams. Microsoft Teams is a central point for parents and children to access learning tasks should they need to do so away from school. The activities are organised into clearly labelled folders and it is easy to navigate. It also has facilities that allow pupils and teachers to keep in contact and discuss their learning with each other as well as providing children with feedback on the work they have completed.

This week, your child will receive login details from their class teacher(s). This will consist of a personal email address and a password that has been created for them. To join Microsoft Teams, your child will need access to a phone, tablet, computer or other device with internet access. If you are accessing it on your phone or tablet, you may find it easier download the free app first. All children now have a Microsoft log in account that we have set up.



With regards to the consultations, please try to help us find a convenient time. Teachers will try to be as flexible as possible. If this time is totally inconvenient then please let the teacher know and we will do our best to rearrange a better time. I ask that, as far as possible you try to attend the time that the teacher has provided. These are important meetings. Teachers will be providing you with assessment information and be explaining where your child is at with regards to their learning.

Teachers have carried out thorough assessment, using a combination of teacher observation, children's actual work as well as a range of different tests and we are now able to talk about some worrying gaps in learning, some achievements, catch-up targets and interventions that we have set up as well as our hopes for your children and the areas that we can focus on together. In turn this leads us to share the ways you can help at home.

Please help us to help you and your children!

Full instructions how to set up and access your child's account can be found on the attached document.

To get used to using the platform, each class teacher has set their first, very simple online assignment. We would appreciate it if, over the next week you could support your child in setting up their account and then finding and handing in their first assignment. Pupils in KS 2 have practiced logging on to their account at school.

We understand completely that every family has differing circumstances and online access might be challenging. Whilst we are getting to grips with this new way of providing work, we will continue to provide alternative teaching resources for children to complete where necessary.

We hope that families find this a useful and easy way to access home learning activities should they ever need to.

Thank you for your continued support. Fingers crossed that there a few technical glitches!!

If something goes wrong then don't worry we will try to contact you again once the error is fixed. At the end of the day, teachers can always just speak to you on the phone.

Kind regards

Justine Brown

