

11th January 2021

Updates for Parents & Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

Free School Meals

The awaited guidance from the DfE around issuing of Free School Meals was issued late Friday evening. We will be providing vouchers to families in receipt of Free School Meals for the period of this national lockdown and further details will follow once this is in place.

Remote Learning Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

In order to further support parents and carers, please find below key information to support learning from home.

1) My child does not have access to a laptop, how can they access online learning?

If your child does not have access to a laptop there are a number of other ways in which they can access online learning:-

Using a mobile phone or tablet

You can download the Google Classroom app onto a mobile phone or tablet. This will then allow pupils to access the live lessons. They can complete the tasks set on paper then at the end of the lesson take a photograph of any work completed and upload this to the Google Classroom.

Using an Xbox

- 1) Plug a keyboard in the Xbox USB slot
- 2) Go in to my games and apps
- 3) Find Microsoft Edge and select
- 4) Type in Office 365 and log in as you would in school
- 5) You can then access key packages including; Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams and your e-mails
- 6) To move around you use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse

Using a PlayStation

- 1) Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is www with dots around it)
- 2) Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
- 3) Go to the library and find options for games and applications
- 4) Go in to applications and you will find internet browser

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- 5) Type in Office 365 and log in as you would in school
- 6) You can then access key packages including; Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams and your e-mails

Using an iPhone to Upload Work



- 2) **I have multiple children using one device so they are not all able to access live lessons at the set time.**

Live lessons will also be recorded and posted to the Google classroom, as such if your child is unable to access this at the set time, they can access this at a later time and complete and submit work. The Privacy Notice linked to live lessons is on our website and was sent to all parents and carers.

- 3) **We have a laptop but we do not have access to the internet at home so my child cannot get onto Google classrooms on their laptop, what can we do?**

You can use a mobile phone as a hotspot device to connect your laptop to. This would then allow you to use data from your phone to access the internet on the laptop.

To do this you would need to go to settings, chose personal hotspot, move the switch to 'allow others to join'. This will then generate you a WiFi password which you can use on your laptop to link this to the phone.

We understand that some families may not have enough data on their phones to support this but there are ways in which we can help.

Increasing data

There are also some schemes running at the moment to support with the increase of data on mobile phones so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted. Schools, trusts and local authorities can request 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 though other providers may join the scheme at a later stage:-

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

For each request, we need to know:

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

To access this scheme please contact us on 01977 664555 or e-mail us at info@airedaleacademy.com

Applying for Sim Cards

Vodafone have acknowledged that they know how important education is, but there are too many children and families struggling to stay connected digitally to their schools. Vodafone have already given 250,000 free data SIMs to 7000 participating schools as part of our schools. Connected plan, and we're now offering an **extra 100,000 SIMs** - with 30GB data for 90 days.

Therefore, as a school we have signed up to this scheme and will hopefully be receiving some SIM cards for families who are not able to access the data increases above.

4) BBC Lessons Live on TV

As a third national lockdown is under way, the BBC is bringing hundreds of educational resources together to help with home-schooling.

Whether on TV, online or on social media, there is lots of brilliant content to help you learn at home.

On TV

- Starting on Monday 11 January, Secondary students will be able to watch two hours of programmes supporting the curriculum on BBC Two every weekday. These will be complemented by drama adaptations, as well as relevant BBC science, history and factual programmes.
- Bitesize Daily Primary and Secondary will also air every day on BBC Red Button, and episodes will be available on demand on BBC iPlayer.

The timetable is below.

BBC 2 Week 1 Lessons				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13:00 Bitesize Daily Age 11-14 Physics - Earth's atmosphere, air pressure & density Big Reads Awesome Scientists Science Museum experiments	13:00 Bitesize Daily Age 11-14 Biology - Digestion, adaptation & energy Big Reads Awesome Scientists Science Museum experiments	13:00 Bitesize Daily Age 11-14 Chemistry - changing states, gases & kitchen chemistry Big Reads Awesome Scientists Science Museum experiments	13:00 Bitesize Daily Age 11-14 Physics - rockets, the ISS & atmospheric flight Big Reads Awesome Scientists Science Museum experiments	13:00 Bitesize Daily Age 11-14 Physics - friction, inertia & force and pressure Big Reads Awesome Scientists Science Museum experiments
14:00 The Planets Brian Cox Into the Darkness: Ice Worlds	14:00 The Planets Brian Cox Life Beyond the Sun: Saturn	14:00 The Planets Brian Cox The Godfather: Jupiter	14:00 The Planets Brian Cox The Two Sisters: Earth & Mars	14:00 The Planets Brian Cox A Moment in the Sun: The Terrestrial Planets

Customers using BT Mobile, EE, and Plusnet Mobile can use BBC Bitesize content from the end of January without eating into their data allowance.

Content from other providers is likely to be made free in the coming days.

More mobile companies are expected to follow suit in making such content free to use.

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All contract and pay-as-you-go customers of BT Mobile, EE and Plusnet Mobile will be eligible and the free package will continue while schools remain closed. No registration is required - the free access will happen automatically.

5) Can we just have paper packs like the last lockdown rather than accessing online learning?

Since lockdown one we have reviewed our practices and feel that paperwork packs are not the way forward in terms of offering pupils access to quality education.

If pupils are supplied with paper packs they would be missing:-

- Access to their class teacher delivering live lessons and of course being available to answer questions.
- Uploading work online allows teaching staff to give timely feedback to pupils, highlighting any mistakes and misconceptions so that these can be addressed swiftly, therefore ensuring that pupils continue to make progress.

The current situation continues to change rapidly.

Yours faithfully



Miss L Proctor
Principal