



Dear Parents /Carers

I hope the children enjoyed their first zoom meetings today. I could see the many e mails between the teachers and parents over the weekend, supporting with being ready for this morning. A huge thank you to them for working over the weekend and getting it all in place in such a short timescale. Don't worry if there were teething problems with your internet or devices, we will have another couple of meetings this week too. I look forward to joining you and the children at one of these this week.

The following explains some of the support being introduced by the government which may be of interest.

### **Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children**

Schools can now request help to increase mobile data allowances for children and young people who:

- Do not have fixed broadband at home
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices

We can also make requests for children who cannot attend school face-to-face because they are clinically extremely vulnerable or restrictions prevent them from going to school. If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also request 4G wireless routers.

***Please read the information included in the form to see if you are eligible.*** If you are, please complete the attached form if you would like the school to action this on your behalf and return to [admin@messingprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@messingprimaryschool.co.uk)

### **Live lessons on TV**

The BBC are supporting with live lessons on TV.

A weekly timetable is attached and is available at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zvryp4j> as well as the following information:

#### **On TV**

Starting on Monday 11 January, CBBC will broadcast three hours of primary school programmes from 9am every weekday. They will include BBC Bitesize Daily, as well as other much-loved shows with an educational twist, such as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and more.

Bitesize Daily Primary and Secondary will also air every day on BBC Red Button, and episodes will be available on demand on BBC iPlayer.

#### **Online**

BBC Bitesize has lots of easy-to-follow lessons for home learning, as well as collections of resources for all ages.

#### **Primary kids at home?**

Help them keep up with our straightforward lessons in Maths and English. Developed by educational consultants, these Learning at Home lessons are curriculum-based and self-contained.

Go to the **BBC Bitesize homepage**, click on Start a Lesson, and choose your year group. You can also get stuck in with collections of educational resources hand-picked from BBC



Bitesize and the wider BBC, including collections for other subjects such as Science, History and Geography. Our best Primary content is organised by topic or theme to make it easy for you to find.

Just **[pick the year group and subject](#)** to get started.

Bitesize's social media channels will also be there to help.

Our **[Facebook](#)** and **[Twitter](#)** accounts focus on parents and teachers, where information including TV schedules will be shared. There will also be articles for parents on supporting their kids learning from home.

## **Games consoles**

### **Access to remote learning via games consoles**

Children are able to use an Xbox or Playstation games console instead of a laptop or tablet to access online schooling such as MS Teams or Google Classroom.

You can do this on the following devices:

Xbox One, Xbox Series S, Xbox Series X, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 4 Pro or PlayStation 5

You will just need a USB Keyboard to plug into that device to enable this function. It just needs to be a working USB keyboard.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.pocketlint.com/apps/news/google/155204-how-to-use-google-classroom-on-xbox-and-playstation>

### **Oak Academy free to access**

Mobile networks EE, O2, Three and Vodafone have said they will move to "zero-rate" the Oak National Academy after the online education provider agreed to move all its content to a single domain.

We will continue to work on the google classroom set up and will be sending information to you and the children later in the week about how to use this. We don't want to overload you with tech information!

For those that may be struggling to access the live lessons due to constraints with access to devices we will also be making contact with you this week.

I look forward to seeing you on a lesson zoom or our coffee and chat meeting later this week.

Kindest regards and please take care

Jackie Halliday