

11.06.2020 HT's Daily Update for families

Virtual Sports' Day, Amended Roll out of TEAMS and Update re Blended Learning Model

Good morning families.

I hope you are well and feeling good despite the grey skies today.

VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY, THURSDAY 11TH OF JUNE

Just a reminder that today is our virtual sports' day. The staff have worked really hard in putting together loads of videos of activities you can join in with so please get involved! You can find the link on Seesaw and on our school website. Would be great to see your photos and videos 😊

PROPOSED ROLL OUT OF TEAMS – AMENDED PLAN

This morning I wanted to update you with our plans to engage with TEAMS, the online platform. We were looking at a roll out across Second Level but have decided to postpone this until the new session.

Over the next two weeks the staff will be working on familiarising themselves with TEAMS so won't have as much time to provide written feedback on Seesaw for the children. They will still be engaging with Seesaw and will always like the posts that are uploaded.

The reasons for this are as follows:

- TEAMS is a new platform and model of working for my staff and we need time for staff training to develop confidence and skills
- There is a high level of anxiety and stress amongst our staff, pupils and families just now with all of the uncertainty surrounding next session and we feel that trying to introduce TEAMS at this point will add to this unnecessarily at this time
- We want the last two weeks of term to be a positive experience for all of our school family, so we end the session with lots of happy memories
- The current Home Learning provision through the home learning packs and Seesaw give families plenty of options with regards to engaging with daily tasks. The feedback from families we have spoken to is that they are happy with this current level
- By waiting until the beginning of next session we can ensure equity by:
 - Making sure everyone has access to a device
 - Ensuring staff have time for training so they can use TEAMS effectively and confidently
 - Providing the log in details for our pupils that they can learn to input themselves during their in-school learning
 - Having ample opportunity as part of their reintroduction back to school to familiarise themselves with TEAMS
 - Giving time to families to familiarise themselves with the platform and offer guides and training for parents and carers

The SLT and I will be working together with staff to formulate a plan for the roll out of TEAMS which we will then share with the Parent Council Senior members.

This will then be shared with parents and carers in the new term, so everyone has clarity and the opportunity for us to respond to any queries or issues.

I am sure you will agree that this will ensure a meaningful and valuable engagement with TEAMS whilst giving real structure and purpose as part of the children's return to school.



★ **MODEL OF BLENDED LEARNING FOR AFTER THE HOLIDAYS**

★ I haven't yet received the guidance or mandate from CEC but am hopefully this will come out by the end of the week. I will make sure I let you know as soon as I hear.

★ In the meantime, the staff are going to be going into school, in strict adherence to the Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council guidelines, to do as much preparation as possible in school. I thank them for their support and hard work in doing this.

★ We will be sharing virtual tours of what the school will look like with you all in the final week of term and give you an opportunity to ask any questions.

★ I know this is such a stressful time for everyone in our Royal High Primary School family and would emphasise how well we are doing. It's not been easy and we have all had our challenging days but by pulling together we have achieved great things.

★ This partnership approach is going to be crucial over the next two weeks, which are going to be really busy for everyone.

★ Communication is key so please contact us through the school admin account if you have any questions or concerns.

★ The health and wellbeing of pupils, staff and families continue to underpin our approach so know that we are here for you and you can reach out any time.

★ Take care, keep well and stay in touch.

★ Anna

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★ Anna Hazel-Dunn

★ Head Teacher

★ The Royal High Primary School

