



Be the best you can be, every day

Newsletter

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Dear Parents, Carers and Children

I hope you have managed to enjoy a safe and productive week. I can imagine though, that as the days pass, the challenges the world of remote learning brings change and levels of enthusiasm may be beginning to wane. We are aware of this and will endeavour to do all we can to keep motivation levels as high as possible.

Your feedback has continued to be very helpful and we have made further changes to our online resources.

- PowerPoints will be shorter in length to make them easier to download.
- Resources for activities (such as texts) will be uploaded with each daily activity, rather than children/parents having to go back and search for them from a previous day.
- Each teacher will label lessons in exactly the same way - for example 'Thursday 14th January - Maths' or 'Friday 15th January - English' to avoid confusion about what needs to be done and when.
- Deadlines for uploading work ('handing it in') have now been extended to 11.59pm for each assignment set.

Also:

- Don't forget we have created a new contact email address for IT support, which parents can use to contact a member of the IT Team with any technical issues.
home_technology_support@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk
- If you would like a reminder of your child's login details, please contact the school office (info@northdowns.surrey.sch.uk)
- Once again, a reminder - please do not try to access Microsoft Teams using the Parent Stream account - this is only to be used to watch assemblies and videos which are made available to all the school families in Microsoft Stream.

In addition:

- We have had several parents ask whether or not work can be uploaded the evening before, in readiness for the next school day. Unfortunately, this is not something we can guarantee for everyone. Teachers are marking work and preparing the assignments for the next day often late into the evening. However, we will ensure everything is ready for the school day by 8.00am each morning.
- Several parents have asked whether or not we will be delivering 'live lessons'. We are mindful that where there are several children in one household, they may be sharing devices and therefore not able to access these. We do have our daily Teams sessions, which we are using as 'Misconceptions Meetings' to talk through any difficulties the children may have had with an area of learning that day and to provide feedback and maybe even award a House Point or two!

Key Worker Provision

I am sure you are aware that there has been a far greater challenge in meeting the demand for key worker places in school in this current lockdown. The DfE guidance for schools which was updated on 8th January defines critical workers as:

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors... Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

If, on reflection, you are able to keep your child at home and now no longer need the place(s) which may have been allocated, **please** do let us know as we still have a number of pupils who are on our waiting lists.

Once again, thank you for your understanding and patience. If you have any concerns or queries please do please do contact us.
Have a safe and restful weekend.