



Shelton Junior School

Carlton Avenue
Shelton Lock
Derby
DE24 9EJ
Tel: 01332 701212
Web: www.sheltonj.derby.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J. Bacon

15th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we're nearly at the end of week 2, I just wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone. Remote teaching, it turns out, is a lot harder even than we expected, and I am sure remote learning at home is difficult too! Thanks to you all for doing your best to support, help and encourage your children with their learning. We know that working at home while children are also trying to work is really hard – and sometimes impossible! Please try not to worry or feel guilty if you're struggling, we're in this together, and we understand the pressures you are under at home. If in doubt, send your teacher a message and focus on encouraging your children to complete their Maths and English work.

For those families having technical difficulties, we're working through these too – please complete the form on the remote learning page of the website (www.sheltonj.derby.sch.uk/remote-learning-information), or get in touch with us by phone as we may be able to help.

We also know that virtual lessons can be frustrating, especially when the technology doesn't work properly. It does seem that as so many schools are now using Teams that the system is sometimes not always working as well as we'd all like. We've had reports of "laggy" sessions, children's cameras going off and even some children dropping out of sessions when the connection fails. I'm sure that this will improve as Microsoft update systems and add capacity during the remainder of the lockdown.

Thank you to the parents who have already contacted me with messages of support for your teachers – the support you have shown for all the staff at Shelton has been amazing, thank you. The whole team is working extremely hard to get the best possible outcomes for your children and I am extremely proud of the extra work that they are all putting in.

At our staff meeting last night, we discussed that a number of families are concerned about the amount of "screen time" that remote learning is causing. Through our remote learning at Shelton, we are trying to ensure a balance between: maintaining connections with friends and teachers; being able to give direct, high quality teaching; and also allowing children time to get away from

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Learn ... reach your full potential - *curiosity, concentration*

Trust ... caring staff support every child in school - *collaboration*

Succeed ... overcome barriers - *resilience, reflectiveness*

their screens to do some work independently and see a bit of the real world too! We discussed the fact that children are missing out on opportunities to play during this lockdown too – the social times at school are so important for children’s development and we know that children are missing the fun of life at the moment.

So, in response to your feedback, we have decided to extend the Friday challenge afternoon to a full day of “no screen” activities from next week. Children can also use this time to catch up with any outstanding work from the week if they wish. We’ll do the usual Friday class assembly in the morning to talk about the challenges for the day, then we’ll ask children to switch off their screens for the rest of the day and complete as many of the challenges for that day as possible. These will all be things they can do on their own, there will be no expectation to “hand in” anything unless the children want to share with each other on Monday.

Finally, can you please pass on my thanks to all of your children for their perseverance, hard work, and teamwork that they’ve shown during this last 2 weeks. We have shown that together we can **learn, trust and succeed**, even during a lockdown!

Well done team Shelton – we’ve got this!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Bacon', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jon Bacon
Headteacher

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