

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you are safe and well and are able to find some balance in the new world that we are currently living in. I am writing to provide some clarity around Special Needs provision from the Local Authority and from the school in the period that the school is closed.

If you need to contact the SEND team at school at any point, whether for advice and support, pastoral need, clarification of arrangements, or to provide us with information about your child or situation, then please do so through the following email or through the school office and someone from the SEND team will get back to you as soon as they are able to.

SENDandPastoralsupport@jrj.w-berks.sch.uk

All parents of pupils with EHC's should have received an email from the Local Authority in April. Please let us know if this has not reached you.

Arrangements for Work Provision for pupils with SEND

Teachers are now providing Home Learning for their classes that are published on our website on a Monday and Thursday. We understand that for a number of children with SEND, it will be difficult to access some or all of this work. Please don't panic, this may be for a number of reasons;

- It may be accessible within the routines and structures of school but pupils may not have the confidence to tackle it outside these parameters
- Some pupils have a strong sense of 'work is for school' and 'home is for rest', they may not be willing to try and with the current situation this may need some gentle handling
- There are other more pressing concerns on their mind and they may have worries or anxieties
- Concentration and focus is limited to short periods of time – there are strategies
- It may be that they are used to particular resources that help them feel confident with their learning

(I will be adding some tips for supporting with some of these issues on the website in the next week)

Of course, there will be some children that are unable to access these 'home learning packs' as their learning is developing at a different rate to those of their peers. For these children we are preparing a number of supports to go alongside the tools, which will be situated on the website under 'Additional Learning'...'Send home learning'.

Interventions

This is a great opportunity for children who need support in a particular area of the curriculum, to spend more time than is possible at school, catching up with class expectations.

In this time, your child could be working specifically on these spelling and maths gaps in order that they are able to access the work more effectively when they come back to school. There are many positives to this; increased self-esteem, short bursts of structured revision, manageable chunks within a routine so happier children.

For this reason, we have decided to put copies of our two most successful interventions for reading/spelling and maths onto the website under the Home Learning (main part). They are easy to use and repetitive so can be used independently. The levels range from infant to about Year 5 so could be accessed by any child, to practise and consolidate skills.

SNIP - <https://www.jrs.w-berks.sch.uk/school-life-english>

SNAP - <https://www.jrs.w-berks.sch.uk/school-life-maths>

(A number of links to good online supports and links will also go onto the website)
Please don't hesitate to use the above email to contact our team about anything related to this.
There are also some more Pastoral and parent tips tools going up soon onto the website pages.

Arrangements for SAPS

Staff are currently busy reviewing SAPs and setting new 'home friendly' targets for this term. As parents you will be able to share these with your children so that they know what they are working towards. There will also be activities and strategies that should help you to support them with reaching their targets in practical ways at home. These SAPs will be sent to you via email in the next few weeks. The current SAPs may be a good place to start in the meantime.

Arrangements for Annual Reviews

The local authority are, understandably, under a lot of pressure at the moment but it has been decided that Annual Review meetings that were due in this term will still go ahead in some form, either by conference call or circulation of reports. I will be sending information out shortly to families who are involved in this process. For Year 6 transition and Year 6 Annual Review meetings, secondary schools will be contacted and invited to the meeting.

Arrangements for Transition

We understand how important the period of transition is to pupils with SEND and are working with any current knowledge in order to be ready for this. There are some transition arrangements that are still being discussed or that can't be finalised until we have instruction from the government regarding school re-opening. However, Year 6/7 transition discussions are taking place virtually at the moment between Year 6 staff and secondary schools. You will be contacted before half term if a specific transition meeting (with outside professionals) has been arranged for your child.

Please let me know (via the email above) if you have any queries about this.

Existing processed referrals and new referrals

Most outside agencies are still operating but their processes will obviously be slowed down somewhat (with limited staff) and being unable to meet or observe children. All referrals requested previous to the school closure have been processed by school and are currently resting with the relevant outside agencies. Please be patient for replies. The SEND team are still completing questionnaires and responding to correspondence from Camhs and other outside agencies so please send these to us if you receive them. No new referrals will be made in this time, unless urgent.

Internal assessments for pupils will obviously resume when we are back in school.

Meetings with SEND team and other outside agencies

These are being prioritised but are still happening where possible. The SEND team are still available by email and phone so it will still be possible to talk through any issues or difficulties with them. We would recommend that if you do this, you will also inform the school of this as we may be able to help. Ava Menzies (ASD advisory service) is available through email and phone and through the school by request.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact us through the email above or the main school office.

Best wishes and Stay safe

SEND team

Tina Allison and Lauren Demeza