



# PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

STOURBRIDGE ROAD, BROMSGROVE  
B61 0AH

Headteacher:  
Mr. N. MILLS, B.A., P.G.C.E., N.P.Q.H.

Tel: (01527) 873660  
Fax: (01527) 836574  
Email: [office@parkside.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@parkside.worcs.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.parkside.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.parkside.worcs.sch.uk)

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## RE: Update to Home Learning

In light of the recent government announcement regarding school closures, we have taken steps to update our Home Learning opportunities. We fully appreciate all the hard work and efforts that have been undertaken so far by parents and families to ensure that learning continues through the Learning Letters and our pupils' Home Learning books. However, we also recognise that with extended closures come the inevitable challenges linked to this, including the motivation of our pupils and their need for increased contact and communication with their teachers. As a result, we will be widening our Home Learning provision from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Our weekly Learning Letters will continue to be set online. These will change slightly to ensure that pupils have as much coverage of the curriculum as possible. Take-away tasks will be more directed, reducing the amount of choice for pupils to ensure breadth and coverage of the curriculum: KS2 will have learning linked to their Learning Journey and all tasks should be completed, while KS3 will focus on completing learning based on the subject they would have had in their final carousel. Subject Leaders have carefully planned these to ensure that key skills and knowledge are taught, to prepare pupils for the next academic year.

In addition to the Learning Letters, subject teachers will also use the online platform Microsoft Teams to provide supporting materials, set assignments and mark work for the remaining period of school closure. We recognise that there are still pressures within many homes for computer access and parents' working responsibilities, therefore completing work on Microsoft Teams is **optional** for pupils. We have introduced the facility for those pupils who require additional support, or would benefit from the regular contact, marking and feedback from their teachers. To continue to allow families to work flexibly, we will not be delivering live, virtual lessons.

Accompanying this letter is some guidance on how to access Microsoft Teams through our Office 365. The facility is secure and safeguarded, as it is monitored from our IT provider Lourdes. We also attach a Remote Learning Agreement; please take the time to read this carefully with your child to explain our expectations regarding the use of the platform.

We would like to reiterate that the use of Microsoft Teams is **optional**; pupils will not be at a disadvantage if they do not choose to use the programme. However, all pupils should continue to complete Home Learning during closure, using the Learning Letters to direct this. Please can we reiterate that **Teams will only be available from 1<sup>st</sup> June**, to enable staff to be trained. Should your child receive an invitation to join the class Team before this date, please be aware that this is simply part of the process to set the facility up – teachers will not respond before 1<sup>st</sup> June. Pupils should check back on 1<sup>st</sup> June for work set.

Thank you in advance for your continued support during this challenging time. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Home Learning provision, please contact Mrs Terrey or Miss Sumner through the school office. For Year 8 pupils, Mrs Terrey will be in touch regarding transition arrangements in due course.

Yours sincerely,

The Curriculum Team



As a school we establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are listened to and encouraged to talk.