



15th January
2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you've had a good week. Online learning at Colmers Farm is something that continues to grow in popularity with our staff, children and parents. Myself, Miss Kelly and Mrs Evans have been popping in and out of these lessons in different year groups and we've been really pleased with the quality of lessons and the way children (and parents) have been engaging with them. On Wednesday last week (the first day of online learning) I had 98 children accessing this. By yesterday we had 238 children, which is 60% of the school. This is fantastic, but this figure can always be improved. We want to get as close to 100% as possible. A huge thank you to all of the parents who have sent in positive feedback about our provision or have mentioned this in conversations with teachers. We really appreciate these positive comments and we are delighted that you value our provision. Many schools in the country are not providing regular live lessons for their children, but at Colmers Farm Primary we all feel that this is best for our children, to enable their learning to continue to move forwards.

As you maybe aware, Miss Kelly and Mrs Evans have been contacting parents who are eligible to loan some school iPads to help access to our online learning provision. There is a slight technical issue on these currently with the internet browser that we are using to keep our children safe whilst on-line, which is preventing access to our live lessons. We are working with our provider to solve this issue as soon as possible. When this has been resolved, we will contact all of these parents via email to let them know this. In the meantime, these iPads can still be used to access Mathletics, Spelling Shed, Accelerated Reader and a new program called MyOn. These are all really useful online resources which will help your child at home with their learning.

MyOn will be introduced to all children who attend online lessons or who are in school on Monday. Staff will also be giving out these passwords during their weekly phone calls to children at home. This program allows our children to have access to 1000s of online reading books and is available to children in KS1 and KS2. These books also have quizzes which count towards the accelerated reader scores of our KS2 pupils. Reading is a vital skill and is something that we want all of our children to be developing as often as possible, both in school and at home. If you would like access to this early, please contact the school office and they will be able to give you your child's username and password.

Please remember that although being in school is the best form of education, if your child is not doing any school work at home they will be falling behind their class peers. This lost learning time, will then take a very long time for children to make up. We all want the best for your child's future which is so dependent on them receiving the best possible education. Please do what you can to support your child at home with their learning. A huge thank you for investing this time with your child.

From next week, I am delighted to announce that we will be changing our means tested free school meal provision. This will involve us moving away from food parcels and back to the voucher system, which I know is much more popular with parents. We have been able to make this change as a result of some amendments to Government guidance. If you have changed your email address since our last issue of school vouchers or you have had a change of circumstances and you now think that you may be entitled to free school please contact the school office and they will be happy to check for you.

I hope that you have a wonderful weekend and please remember to contact us if there is anything that we can help with.

Mr Williams

Have you changed your telephone number or email address?

If so, please let the school office know so that we can keep our records up to date.



If you have safeguarding concerns about a child please email school using the following address:

safeguarding@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org

Alternatively, Birmingham City Council Children's Trust can also be contacted on 0121 303 1888

Monday to Thursday: 8:45am – 5:15pm

Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Emergency out-of-hours
Telephone: 0121 675 4806

Mr Williams and Miss Kelly have been so impressed with the standard of learning that they will be resuming Hot Chocolate Friday's.

These will be sent in the post every Friday to one lucky child in each class.



Please remember that we also use Mathletics (Years 2-6), Accelerated Reader (Years 3-6) and Spelling Shed (Years 1-6) for online home learning.

Learning should be recorded online or in the exercise book your child has been provided with. This can then be shared with teachers and teaching assistants using Google Classroom or via a photo sent to a dedicated home learning email address. CLASS NAME e.g. 5TM@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org. This email address is for sharing learning only and other enquires will not be answered here. Alternatively work can be dropped into the school office for teachers to view.

Have a fun and active weekend!

