

4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Learning devices issued to families by the school

After such a difficult academic year I would like to again praise and thank our children, parents, wider family and school staff for their resilience and teamwork. Every day I have been inspired by the fantastic work I've seen submitted from home, the focus of children in school, the remarkable support from families and the relentless and high-quality provision by the staff. I have constantly been in awe of how our school community has stuck together (albeit remotely for most) and continued to find a positive way forward for the benefit of our amazing children. During the virtual Parent Consultation meetings yesterday, staff shared with me some of the amazing feedback from parents. Quite simply, we are all blown away with the overall positivity regarding your experiences with online learning.

While a huge team effort with remote learning has significantly reduced any negative impact on your child's education, we now set about catching up once again. Our teachers have met on Teams to discuss our priorities: keeping a close eye on every child to provide the best personal support as they return, taking every opportunity to ensure that they enjoy and benefit from school life. Academically, there is no doubt that some children have some catching up to do but I have every confidence in both the resilience of children and the skill of our staff to ensure that they make rapid progress. I truly believe that we can come back even stronger and better than before, with not a second to lose.

To aid in implementing our school priorities, we have decided to continue to use the MS Teams learning platform to deliver catch-up sessions and homework for children. Therefore, all remote learning devices issued to children and families **do not** need to be returned to school until further notice. Please note that the learning devices issued by the school must be used for educational purposes only. The device loan agreement will still be valid until it is returned to school, so therefore, any damages to the device will be charged to the parent.

Staff are planning a wide range of exciting activities that remind us of our purpose as a school: to stimulate, to inspire, to grow and to achieve. Whatever hardships we have endured in the last 12 months, we remain optimistic and aspirational about what our futures may hold. We would love children to reflect on the remote learning experience, thinking about what they may have liked but also what they love about school and are looking forward to most when they return. We ask children to bring in the best thing they have done into school on 8th March, sharing it with the class but also contributing into a big school display that shows off our thoughts, ideas, hopes and passions.

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Like many of you, no doubt, we have a feeling of exhaustion mixed with excitement. We will emerge from this lockdown better than ever and look forward to opening the gates on Monday 8th with big smiles and a warm welcome. In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mineza Maher
Iqra School Headteacher

