

Romanby Primary School
The Close
Romanby
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8BL

Headteacher: Mr. J. Foxwell

Telephone: 01609 781178
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8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Romanby Update

This week has been challenging for everyone and we hope you're all adjusting well in these difficult circumstances. We wanted to get in touch with everyone to keep you up to date with what has been happening in school this week. It has been difficult for everyone given the speed at which things have been happening and the lack of information that is still unavailable.

Demand for critical worker and vulnerable places in schools had risen substantially since the last school shutdown. It is important that critical worker child school places are only used when absolutely necessary in order to have a significant impact on reducing the spread of the virus and keeping everyone in our community safe. We have been told that further guidance will be released shortly that addresses this issue. We will keep you informed of any changes as and when we receive any information. This may mean we are forced to change our current provision. Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

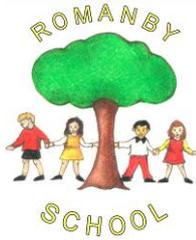
It has been lovely to see how many children have already completed some great activities at home this week. It has not helped that certain websites have crashed as a result of the national pressure on them – but we are getting there. Please remember that we are here to support and help so don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything, you can do this via Teams or through our school admin email address. Staff who are not teaching in school and who are supporting home learning have been really impressed with the enthusiasm shown by the children. To add to this, we have now launched a weekly class catch up on Teams and we have used our Facebook page to share examples of online, home and school learning. Staff have also started sharing stories on our YouTube page and today we have added a video that presents the certificates that we would normally award during our Friday celebration assembly. Have a look at [Romanby Primary School - YouTube](#). We have shared things in this way so that they can be accessed at any time as we know from the feedback we were given last time that not everyone can stick to a set timetable due to other work and home commitments. We are fully aware that many parents are juggling work alongside home schooling – please just do what you can and what fits best with your family and your well-being.

The critical worker children who are currently in school are completing the assignments from Teams that have been set. As a school, we feel that this is the most consistent approach to ensure that all children have the same experiences of learning whether they are in school or at home. If your child is attending school part-time, where possible it would be beneficial to complete the work on Teams on the days that they are at home please.

We are now able to access additional data allowances for mobile devices for some children (please see the following link)



RRSA: Article 28 – We have the right to a good quality education.



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[Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children - Get help with technology - GOV.UK \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. What data someone will get depends on their mobile network. Some networks can't offer data to Pay-as-you-go (PAYG) customers. If you think that you fit the criteria outlined in the link you will need to send us the following information:

- the account holder's name
- their mobile number (a number beginning with '07')
- their mobile network
- whether they pay monthly or pay as they go

You also need to understand their privacy policy [explain our privacy policy](#). If you think you are eligible please email us this information by 12.00pm on Monday 11th January so that we can send the application from school.

We have been advised that we will be eligible for a small number of extra laptops under the government loan scheme. At the moment secondary schools have priority. The DfE will be inviting primary schools to order them over the coming weeks, starting with the most disadvantaged areas in England and they will contact each school as soon as we can order. If you do not have any access to a laptop or tablet please let us know via the admin email address so that we can try and prioritise who we may provide laptops to.

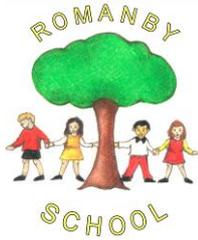
We know that some families struggle to provide children access to technology during work hours as devices may be required for parental use. However, we are aware that many homes have gaming consoles which we have learnt can also be used to access children's learning on Microsoft Teams. For anyone who has an Xbox One or PlayStation 4 both consoles have web browsers and therefore you are able to browse the Internet. They also have USB slots and can have wired or wireless keyboards plugged in. The link below gives more details:

[Connect To Teams Using XBOX ONE or PlayStation 4 - YouTube](#)

For those children entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) we have been advised that the current provision we will be providing is a choice of a daily packed lunch or a weekly food parcel. The packed lunch will contain a sandwich, a piece of fruit and a piece of cake. The food parcel will be a pack of food enabling you to make lunches for your child (we do not yet know exactly what this will contain). Packed lunches will need to be picked up daily from 11.30am. The food parcels will be picked up weekly and we will confirm the day and time once we have this information available. Both will need to be signed for by an adult. If you are entitled to FSM and would like either of these options to be provided, please can you email the school office as soon as possible. Once we have further information regarding the food parcels this will be communicated



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to you and if you have chosen this option but you feel it is no longer suitable then you will be able to notify us and we can provide the daily packed lunch instead. At the moment we have not had any indication about voucher schemes etc. If this changes we will let you know.

For those children working from home who need work packs because they cannot access online resources packs will be available for collection every Monday from 18th January from 9.00-10.00am. The packs sent out for Y3/4 children this week have resources until 18th. Additional materials for EYFS, KS1 and Y5/6 to cover up until the 18th can be collected on Monday 11th if needed. These packs contain the same resources that the children in school are using and link to the current Imaginative Learning Projects and the Teams work. Please email us if you need a work pack and you will be added to the list for each week. We will only provide work packs for people who have emailed us to ask for one so please do not turn up to collect one unless you have contacted us. If you no longer need a pack please tell us so that we do not waste time and resources producing packs that are not collected.

On another note, a reminder that the deadline for applications for Reception admissions to school in September is 15th January. Details can be found at [School admissions | North Yorkshire County Council](#)

If you have any concerns about helping your child's learning or you need any other support from school, please let us know via admin@romanby.n-yorks.sch.uk

Thank you to everyone for their support and patience this week.

Yours sincerely,

J. Foxwell



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