24 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to thank all those who completed the survey about the use of a computer or laptop and to give you some guidance of the school's expectation about home schooling your son. We will continue to print learning activities for those without computers or laptops and post work home.

The Government has announced that they will provide devices for children with social workers and for Year 10 students who are disadvantaged (Pupil Premium). We have sent the number of devices we require to the local authority as the DfE state that the scheme must be coordinated by local authorities and that the schools and parents are not able to order these individually. We will contact families who are eligible when the order arrives from Merton.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support during this unprecedented time as we know it is hugely challenging when you are working from home and trying to find time for your children to also complete some home learning activities. We appreciate that many families only have one device which is shared and that you are having to organise your day so your son's access to the device may be limited. We are also mindful that some families may also be unwell, self-isolating and shielding.

I am sure you will appreciate that like other organisations, there remains approximately 25% of the school staff who have reduced working capacity as they are either self-isolating, vulnerable adults or caring for vulnerable family members. Staff are having to manage the same during this extraordinary time: planning learning activities, assessing work, looking after their families and home schooling their own children.

As you are aware, school budgets have been cut year on year which has meant that we have not been able to provide every teacher with a school laptop and many are using their own devices at home. A number of devices used by staff do not have webcams or microphones and nor do the computers at school, therefore, it is not possible for us to create video clips or sound bites for students or deliver a consistent online learning package. We are also mindful of the safeguarding guidance around this topic where we must protect all our Rutlish families by not enabling webcams or video conferencing between our students in their homes.

We will continue to create learning activities that give equal access to all students and will continue to investigate resources to engage students that do not need the internet or screens. We are trying to do our best to provide some learning activities for all students in this ever-changing situation we all find ourselves in.

As a general guide for home learning we do not expect parents to attempt to replicate the whole school day if this is not possible to do. Our aim is for students to be able to complete three hours of school work each day that can

be done at a time that suits your family, especially if you are sharing devices. If your son would benefit from a routine, you might want to consider the below:

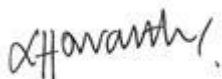| | |
|---|---|
| 8am | shower and breakfast |
| 9am | physical activity e.g. Joe Wicks |
| 9.40am | home learning tasks |
| 11.45am - 12noon | break |
| 12noon - 1pm | home learning tasks |
| 1pm - 2pm | lunch |
| 2pm - 3pm | something creative, no screens: eg reading, baking |
| 3pm | go for a walk or bike ride |

Should you wish to structure the day more like a normal school day there is sufficient work on Fronter.

If you have any queries about work set by teachers, please put the subject and year group in the title and send an email to administration@rutlish.merton.sch.uk so it can be directed to the relevant members of staff.

If you have a concern about a safeguarding matter, please email: SafeGuarding@rutlish.merton.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms L Howarth
Headteacher