

26th Oct 2020

Home Learning – Expectations if you and/or your child need to self-isolate – Oct 2020:

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after half term. Following on from the challenges that we have faced over the closure to a group of children who were required to self-isolate, the staff and I have been working on a plan going forward. With a number of schools in a similar position, we see this as an opportunity to get ahead of the game and build on what we did in the summer term. We will not have been the first school to go through this and nor will we be the last. Though we will make every effort to avoid closing to groups of children, the likelihood of this having to happen again is quite high.

We understand you will have had a huge range of experiences and many will have had to make alternative arrangements for work (or child care). We therefore want to set out expectations for if we have to do this again.

Expectations of work:

While children are off, unless they are unwell, they are still expected to continue to do work. We do understand however that you are likely to be busy working from home yourself and may not have the time to complete vast quantities of work, but every little bit helps. We will use Class Dojo as our main vehicle for communication of work between class teachers and you as parents (and children). If just one or two children are off, we may send you individual messages. If the whole class or a larger group of children have to self-isolate, we will upload work to the Portfolio.

Teachers will upload slides and instructions of their work to Dojo class pages. They will then assign a task on the Portfolios tab to the children who are off and state how children can respond to this work (it may be taking a photo of something they have created or completing a worksheet etc).

You should already be able to access the Portfolios tab as part of your logins. If you need to ask your teacher for some help on this, we will be more than happy to help. A diagram on the back of this letter gives you quick instructions.

We will try to keep the work as closely linked as possible to that which the children would ordinarily be doing in class. Where there are practical activities (such as PE or Forest Schools), we will give a short instruction such as, “Go outside in the garden and do some exercise with a ball.”

If a whole class needs to self-isolate, a teacher may upload short video clips (for example in the delivery of phonics) for you to access through Class Dojo. These can be accessed at a time when it is convenient for you to share with your child.

If there is only one (or two) children who need to self-isolate while awaiting a test, the teacher may send you a short message on Dojo with instructions of what to do.

Marking of work and feedback:

Parents (and children) are able to upload work into their portfolio on Class Dojo so the class teacher can then see their work and approve it. The class teacher will check the approved box (which acts as a tick to say well done). Teachers may write a short comment where a child might need some additional support (for example if they have done some maths work and got a number of questions wrong). They may then ask a child to look at it again.

Please note that if a class teacher has more than one or two children off, they will still be working full time, face to face with the remaining children in class so they will not be able to spend lengthy amounts of time responding with detailed comments to individual children.

Access to tablet/PC:

Class Dojo is an online tool that will obviously need access to a tablet or PC. We are aware that some households may not have enough equipment or bandwidth to be able to support more than one child at a time (and perhaps a parent working from home). We are not delivering direct face-to-face video lessons at set times for this reason.

The portfolio functions should allow you to upload work directly to Class Dojo to make this as easy as possible for you and to avoid the need to print off vast quantities of worksheets. We are aware however that for some individuals who do not have access to a printer or electronic equipment, there may be a need to request printed sheets. If you are in this position, please ask your teacher to arrange for work to be printed and left in the office for you to collect.

Difficulties with access:

If you have any difficulties with access or any work that has been set, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher (either by catching them at the gate, through Class Dojo or put a call into the office). Please be aware though if you do message on Class Dojo, it may take them a little time to respond as they will be working with their classes.

This is all very new to us as well as yourselves but we hope to work together to make sure our children do not miss out on too much of their education during this tricky time.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Kind regards

Mr T. Jenkinson

The screenshot shows the Class Dojo interface for the 'Jaguars' class. The page has a top navigation bar with 'Classroom', 'Portfolios', 'Class Story', and 'Messages'. Below this is a sidebar with 'All posts', 'Activities', and 'Students'. The main content area features a video titled 'Get started with Portfolios' and an 'All posts' section with an 'Add post' button. A 'DRAFT' button is visible in the bottom right of the 'All posts' section. Five callout boxes provide instructions: 1. 'Click the Portfolios tab...' points to the 'Portfolios' tab. 2. 'Your class teacher will upload work on here if the class need to self-isolate. You should see this appear in the space below.' points to the video. 3. 'Select your named Dojo to upload your work' points to the 'Jaguars' class selection in the sidebar. 4. 'Click add post to upload work.' points to the 'Add post' button. 5. 'Click the Portfolios tab...' also points to the 'All posts' section.