



21st<sup>th</sup> January 2021

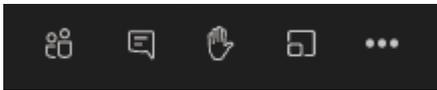
Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, up until now, children have been asked to keep their cameras turned off during online lessons. However, as live lessons become the 'new normal' we are finding out more and more about how online lessons work best. Having cameras on is now thought to be beneficial for the following reasons:

- It supports engagement of pupils in the lesson
- It improves behaviour management as teachers can see when pupils are on task or actively listening
- It supports phonics with younger pupils, as primary staff can see and hear pupils making sounds and correct/ model as appropriate
- It supports pupils' social and emotional needs by allowing them to see their friends and feel more fully part of a class

Therefore, from Monday morning, we are going to trial having cameras turned on for each lesson. We have shared the Code of Conduct for Online Learning with you already, however, here is a brief summary of expectations for using cameras:

- Please have your camera off when you enter a lesson and then turn it on when you are told to. Please blur your background. You can do this by clicking onto 'More options'



(three dots) at the top of the Teams screen. Go to 'Apply background' and click on 'blur'. Please turn your camera off straight away if asked by a teacher.

- Always make sure you are fully dressed (and not in nightwear) for lessons. You do not need to wear school uniform.
- Parents, please do not appear on screen.

Cameras are already being used very successfully in Year 1 and we are aware of different schools where cameras are being used with lots of benefits.

Please note, turning cameras on is not compulsory and we understand that there may be times when your child doesn't feel comfortable having their camera on. *Therefore, no child will get into trouble for not switching their camera on.*

If you would like to discuss any of this further, please email your class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Mitchell  
Head of School