



## **Tackley C of E Primary School**

42 St John's Road

Tackley

OX5 3AP

[office.3144@tackley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3144@tackley.oxon.sch.uk)

[www.tackley.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.tackley.oxon.sch.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

### **Remote Learning**

Dear Parents

It has been a really positive start to the school year and we have been very proud of all of our children – from our new Reception children – who have made a great start in such unusual times as well as our established and older children settling back into the new routines. All of the children have demonstrated without exception our values of kindness, responsibility and curiosity.

I wanted to share you with our plans that we have been working on as a school for a remote learning offer should we need to use it in the future. Rates of COVID-19 appear to be increasing again nationally. In Oxfordshire currently several schools are partially or fully closed due to positive COVID tests being received from either staff or pupils in their school.

We know that a remote learning offer is no replacement for children being at school, taught by their teacher, and alongside their peers. I want to reassure you that any decision to move to remote learning for individual classes or in the worst case scenario the whole school would be a last resort.

#### **Feedback from parent survey**

The feedback from parents at the end of the Summer term around remote learning during lockdown was really valuable in helping us develop our offer. We have spent time as staff reflecting on the home learning experience for pupils, parents and teachers and we want to build on this and move forwards. We have also had the opportunity to 'trial' some aspects of this as children and staff have self-isolated this term.

Our planning for different scenarios has taken into account what worked well for us over lockdown as well as considering the most effective ways to ensure high quality learning. We have considered a completely 'live' offer and have made the decision that this does not provide an equal, high quality experience for all of our children. Instead we have developed a more purposeful and planned approach to have the greatest impact on children's learning and engagement.

#### **Possible scenarios for remote learning**

At the beginning of this term the Department for Education (DfE) asked all schools to develop remote learning plans and share these with parents. There are several scenarios where we may need to move to a remote learning offer for children.

1. Where children, or someone in their household (a parent or sibling) are displaying COVID symptoms and need to take a period of time off of school to be tested. We would anticipate that this is a short amount of time, between two and three days out of school.



2. Where a positive case occurs in school whether that be a member of staff or a pupil, and we need to close a class. Or there is a local or national lockdown and we are asked to close the school.
3. Where several members of staff either become ill, or are unable to attend school due to waiting for test results and having to self-isolate.

As a school we have been fortunate to not encounter any of these scenarios yet. If we do have a confirmed case of COVID within the school community, we have very clear protocols to follow and guidance from the DfE and Public Health England, about what actions to take and this will, of course, be communicated to you.

If your child is **unwell with COVID symptoms** we will **NOT** provide work for them to complete.

### **Scenario 1**

With respect to provision for individual children who may be self-isolating, we are aware that the majority of these children return to school within two to three days. The setting of work for individual children is time heavy for teachers and means that this time is not spent planning, preparing, teaching and assessing the larger number of children who remain in their class. We know that children who are self-isolating still require high quality learning and activities and opportunities to consolidate the learning from the previous week or days.

To achieve this, work will be uploaded on to Google Classroom to complete and a timetable will be provided. The work should be completed online and submitted back to the teacher through Google Classroom. The class teacher will provide feedback on the work submitted by the child.

The activities will focus on fluency in Maths, aspects of grammar and spelling teaching, phonics, geography/history and Science. Teachers may also include links to Oak National Academy lessons and BBC Bitesize. Teachers will ensure that all tasks set are in line with the curriculum being taught in class. By providing this work we will be able to ensure, if it is completed, that any child absent for even one or two days will be making progress in their learning and in covering the curriculum.

Where possible, a phone call will be made from the office, each day your child is self-isolating, to check-in with families, and to answer any questions you may have about the work set by the class teacher.

### **Scenario 2 and 3**

In the event of a class needing to self-isolate or shut we will provide the following:

1. A set timetable for each day which will be uploaded to Google Classroom. Work will be set for each area on the timetable. This means children will be able to work in a similar way to that which they would in school, and experience the full range of subjects being taught.
2. Provide high-quality learning activities: these will be submitted back to teachers on Google Classroom and teachers will provide feedback to the children on their learning.
3. Provide a daily Google Meet for their class: these will be live interactions with children where work will be set for the children and good examples modelled and shared. Teachers will use these opportunities to check in with children and their understanding of the work set. Children can ask questions and teachers can address misconceptions.
4. Children will have access to pre-recorded teaching segments that introduce the learning with their class teacher – for example, the teacher teaching from Powerpoint slides with a voice over. This will provide a teaching model for the children. Teachers may also supplement aspects of their teaching with BBC Bitesize or Oak National Academy lessons.
5. Teachers will be available throughout the teaching day to respond to pupil comments in the Stream and individual queries around learning. This will provide the instant and specific feedback that will support all

lessons and maintain the crucial link between teacher and pupil. Using this combination of 'as live' and 'pre-prepared' approaches, allows us to be really focused and personalize the learning for our children.

Where possible, a weekly phone call or virtual meeting will be held with parents to check in on children's well-being and learning.

### **Early Years – Nursery and Reception**

In Early Years this method of formal teaching is less suitable for how we know our youngest children learn best. We do not want to encourage our youngest children to be sat in front of a screen for longer periods of time, and we know at their age they will find it harder to focus and listen for extended periods of time. To best reflect the learning in the classroom teachers will upload recorded stories, phonic sessions and Maths session to parents can organise and pause learning to come back to if needed. Miss Malone will be available once a day on Google Meet for any questions from parents and to say hello to children.

### **Technology**

Our remote learning offer relies very heavily on technology. We are aware that families may be sharing single devices at home. Where access to technology may be restricted please speak to the school in confidence and we will try to support where we can.

### **Parental support for remote learning**

In each of these scenarios we understand that parents will also be balancing work and childcare and this will not be easy. We ask for your support helping your child to manage their learning and complete it where possible.

There is no doubt that disruption from self-isolation and possible class/school closure will have an impact on your child's progress and education. We want to work together to make that impact as small as possible. Parents can support us with this by creating a good work ethos with their child at home and valuing and promoting the work set by their child's class teacher. Parents can do this by encouraging independence in their child's learning – letting them have a go on their own and support after they have worked on it on their own, and asking questions about their learning.

We hope that you are reassured by these plans. As always, we would welcome any feedback. Please feel free to contact us if you require further information or would like to discuss these proposals further. Please make contact through the school office [office.3144@tackley.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3144@tackley.oxon.sch.uk)

Thank you for all your ongoing positivity and support during this challenging time for our school and education as a whole. We are grateful for all your support, both of the school and your children. I hope you all have a restful half term week and we would look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

Yours sincerely

Lauren Murrey  
Headteacher