



THE RICHARD CROSSE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations on making it through home learning for another week!

I hope that you and your families are coping as well as possible in the current situation that we find ourselves in!

As stated in my initial letter after the January Lockdown was announced, we will reflect upon our practice and change things where necessary. Therefore, please see below clarification and tweaks regarding our home learning and expectations.

Home learning

Last week and this week have been the start of our new way of learning, which for the majority of children has been from home. Parents/Carers have now become teachers again...and as educators we know it is not without its challenges. We know that sometimes being able to complete all of the work set or attend Google Meets will be difficult to achieve but we want the children to have a routine and structure to the day which will help them achieve a feeling of normality during such times. However, this should not be to the detriment of the adults living and working from home. Children staying connected to their class teachers, teaching assistants and friends is vital for children's mental health but this, we recognise, has to be balanced with the mental health and wellbeing of the adults too!

The Government expectation is very different from the first lockdown. Last time the provision for key worker children in schools focused on childcare. We are now expected to provide the learning that we would usually be teaching at school remotely.



This is inevitably more challenging both for school staff and for parents. Lessons last time helped children to keep their existing skills sharp and take things forward a little bit at a time so that we could pick things up on their return. Now we are moving learning forward more quickly, so children are going to encounter the usual challenges and problems that they encounter at school. We have considered very carefully the amount of work set each day. All our children will have maths and English to complete in the morning with Foundation subjects in the afternoons, related to the curriculum planned for the spring term.

The Government is expecting us to provide 3 hours learning for Key Stage 1 and 4 hours learning at Key Stage 2. Not all families will be able to manage this, particularly if they have more than one child or parents are also working from home. Please prioritise everyone's mental health and just do what you can. Going out for a walk can help refresh the mind as well as give physical exercise. Feel free to adapt work however you see fit for your child. The subject that it is most difficult to fill the gaps for is maths, so if you are struggling to complete all the work set for the day, please prioritise this.

Unlike in the classroom we are unable to adapt the learning as we see it happening to both stretch and challenge or offer more immediate verbal or practical support. Therefore, if your child is struggling, please stick to the given time slot for that session, please do not expect them to complete the whole task if they are unable within this timeframe, if they are trying their best then this is what would be expected in class too. Similarly, if you find your child is completing the work set within the given timeframe, then check that the work is completed properly and to a high standard as all this work will be returned to school and should reflect the child's usual standard. Opportunities for individual extensions to the set class work can be found on The National Oak Academy website.

Please contact the school office or use the Google Classroom Stream to discuss any problems that you/your child might have about the work set. Teachers are available during school working hours and will do their best to reply and support as soon as they can.

Updates - clarification and changes

We have listened to feedback from both pupils, parents and staff. Therefore, reflecting upon this and making a few changes, we would like to clarify our expectations from this week onwards:

Attendance

- All children should attend their morning Google Meets for registration and morning lessons (contact the office via email if this is not possible as you would if your child was absent from school)
- Children are invited to attend afternoon Google Meets – **this is not compulsory but 3 live lessons per day, along with work will be offered.**

Returning work/marking

- All KS1 and KS2 will be provided with an answer sheet for their maths so that they can self-mark their work (adults can also mark) to provide instant feedback.
- Answers for English work completed in the study books can also be found within the books to offer instant feedback for the children (KS2 children are used to self-marking and then discussing their work in school).
- All work will be available for the children to complete through the Google Classroom/the class webpage for Class 1.
- Where possible children should turn in or upload their work for the class teacher to mark as soon as possible after it is complete via Google Classroom. Children can continue to upload images of their work if they want to, but there **is no expectation** for this to happen.
- Class 1 can continue to send in/show their work as they have done since the beginning of this lockdown.
- All work in books should be completed to the children's standard in school.
- All work will be returned to school for the class teacher following the lockdown.

You are doing a great job!

Please remember that whatever challenges you are facing at the moment, you are doing the best that you can, we all are, given the difficult circumstances that we find ourselves in. As a parent you cannot compare how you are doing things with others because everyone's situation is unique. Please be kind to yourself and keep doing the best that you can. Please contact us if you are struggling in any way and we will try to help as best we can.

Best wishes to you and your families,

Ms E Bowring
Headteacher