



Urchfont C. E. Primary School

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Dear Parents of remote learning children,

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and hope that you were able to have the best Christmas break that you could under the circumstances.

Well, we are now back to a very similar situation to last Spring and as you can imagine we, like you, were not expecting schools to be closed overnight on Monday. I would like to thank you all for your patience this week as we finalise plans on how to manage the very tricky task of managing remote learning as well as teaching children in school.

We have decided because of the significant numbers of vulnerable and critical worker children in school that the previous arrangement of four class bubbles will remain. Each teacher and TA will work their normal working pattern. The staff will be supervising and supporting the children in their classes replicating the Google Classroom. During each day, the teachers will have dedicated time allocated for remote learning. It will be during this time that pupil's queries will be answered, work that the teacher has asked to be submitted, marked and new work planned, prepared and uploaded to the Google Classroom. For other work, answers will be provided on the Google Classroom for you to mark with your child. This is a mammoth task for the teachers so your patience will be greatly appreciated.

We realise that the circumstances which cause our school to adopt a 'blended learning' approach will affect families in a number of ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all sides and appreciate that each family's circumstances and expectations will also vary over the coming weeks. Some parents will be working from home, others will be leaving the home to work but most will be juggling both work and home schooling. The devices used will vary between households both in the number available and the range of technologies (which may not always function as they should). Teachers may also need to manage their home situation and the learning of their own children as well as maintaining effective planning that can be undertaken both within in school and remotely. On all sides, an understanding of and willingness to adapt to these difficulties is essential for success.

As such, we have arranged the lessons on Google Classroom in such a way that parents can choose the timing and order in which their child/ren works through them. In support of learning activities, we will also ensure access to a variety of high-quality on-line and off-line resources which are linked to the school's existing curriculum planning expectations as well as current Government expectations. These may include slideshows, detailed explanations, worksheets and quizzes as well as audio presentations and pre-recorded videos using resources from the Oak National Academy for example.

There is a government expectation that children complete 3hrs of remote learning each day for KS1 and 4hrs for KS2 pupils, so you will find a Maths, English and topic task on the Google Classroom.



For many classes, there is much more than this. You may find that what takes 3 or 4 hours in class may take your child a shorter or longer amount of time to complete at home as the number of breaks etc. may vary. However, if your child is taking much longer, please contact their class teacher to discuss this.

The teachers have also placed additional ideas on their pages to support you and your child in other ways such as PE or Art activities. We are asking the children to use the Stream part of the Google Classroom to post questions for the teacher. But please remember, everyone can see these. If you have a more personal query, please contact the class teacher via the class email account. Staff will not be checking the "gmail" accounts linked to Google Classroom so if you use this, your query will not be answered. Teachers will also set up a daily chat in the Stream for the children but these will be deleted on a regular basis. I have attached a copy of our formal remote education offer which can also be found on the school's website.

If a teacher becomes ill, for whatever reason, we have contingency plans in place to ensure work continues to be placed onto the Google Classroom for your child. However, it may not follow the initial plans that have been developed by the teachers.

If you need a workbook for your child to place their work into, please contact the school and we can arrange for the books to be left in reception for you to collect.

For those families in receipt of Free School Meals, the DFE announced last night that the Voucher scheme that was used last summer may be reinstated. As soon as we receive further information we will contact you.

We do appreciate that the next few weeks are going to be very difficult and we will keep in touch with you and your family. Our teaching assistants will be making welfare calls on a weekly basis. However, if you have any issues or queries please contact the school and we will try to help you. In addition, our Parent Support Advisor is still available to offer support and guidance over the coming weeks.

With warmest regards and please keep safe!



Mrs CE Talbot
Head Teacher

