



*St Francis of Assisi
Church of England Primary School*
"Live, love and learn together in the light of Christ."

Friday 29th January, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'd just like to start this letter by saying thank you to all those families who have provided some really positive feedback regarding the remote learning and support that staff have provided to you. You are doing an amazing job with supporting children and encouraging them to show increased positivity and perseverance with their learning. In addition, thank you to all those parents who are working in a critical worker position at this current time and helping to keep us all safe. My letter today is based around the remote learning provision and access to support for parents. I hope some of this information supports you with what to do in different situations and shows how greatly appreciative I am of your continued support for the school and your children.

I know that many of you will have been disappointed to see that schools remain 'closed' until at least 8th March. This only adds to the seriousness of this pandemic and how we all need to play our part in reducing the risks of transmission of the virus.

Remote Learning Provision at Home:

"I do not have time to teach my child when I am working from home so they are better off in school."

"I have more than one child at home so cannot manage all their learning every day."

"My child will not listen to me and refuses to do their work!"

"I am a parent, not a teacher – I am unsure how their work is taught in school."

Lots of parents will be struggling to manage work, childcare and their parenting responsibilities as well as supporting with remote learning. **However, our staff are here to help you.** Send them an email or ring and they will be happy to give you help and support.

All children from Y3-6 should be able to access their learning independently, only asking for help where needed. Staff provide videos, explanations and instructions to support. If your child in these year groups cannot access their learning or is taking a long time to complete tasks, please speak to their teacher.

"My child's mental health is suffering because of the current situation."

All adults and children have had to adapt to a very challenging situation. This time of year, and with the current weather and restrictions, lack of social interaction has compounded everyone's mental health. Why not create opportunities for the children to contact each other? Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp calls will all work for groups of children to socialise, particularly on a weekend or a tea time when families tend to be available. Birthday celebrations could be remote. Alternatively, try old fashioned methods such as letters, telephone calls or emails. Reduced screen time where possible and an increase in games and family time as well as regular exercise will help too.

Please also see the attached letter regarding Mental Health Awareness week next week.



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“I am worried that my child is falling/will fall behind.”

If we do not know what your struggles are, we cannot help but all staff want to be able to support you. Get in touch with us so we can help. **Do not suffer in silence.** Staff can adapt learning, activities, strategies and can arrange individualised support where needed.

Here are some other tips that might help:

- Try breaking up activities into shorter chunks.
- Keep a routine for each day and create an environment for children to complete learning that is separate to their down time.
- Incorporate movement breaks into the day.
- Offer rewards for children.
- Try to remain positive but set clear expectations that can be achieved.
- **Contact school – we will help in any way we can.** It is our job as teachers to support the learning so that you can manage your own responsibilities as parents.

We all want the children to be back in school as soon as possible. However, we cannot do this until the virus is under control, and we all take responsibility for the reduction of transmission. The quicker the virus is under control, the quicker **all** children can return to school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child’s teacher at any time during the school week.

Kind regards.

Louise Probets
(Head Teacher)