



Forty Hill C of E School
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Dear Parents and Carers

Remote Learning Updates

The original planned two-week lockdown period has now come to an end and we now know that this lockdown will continue until at least half term. As a consequence of this, following the feedback we have received from parents and children, and our own professional thoughts, we are updating our remote learning plans to further support pupil learning at home.

Our staff had to make rapid changes to their original teaching plans over the Christmas holidays to ensure that children learning at home as well as critical worker and vulnerable children in school, could all access the learning.

We have also ensured that all children, whether at home or at school are taught/supported by a class teacher. For those children learning at home, a member of staff has led the daily check-ins and been on hand to answer any questions either on Teams, via email or phone. We continue to mirror the learning taking place at home with the learning taking place in school.

We are now introducing some new developments, to support pupil understanding of key concepts and skills. From next week, we will be introducing the following across the school:

Pre-Recorded Lessons from approved specialists

These are lessons that are already available, which fit into the skills and concepts that we are currently teaching. For Mathematics, we will be using White Rose Maths to support our teaching and learning. We have utilised White Rose Maths in school for many years and we believe that the pre-recorded videos model the teaching and learning in the same way that we would do in the classroom.

For Literacy, we will be using the Government recommended Oak Academy lessons. Like White Rose Maths, these pre-recorded lessons model the teaching and learning that would take place in the classroom.

The advantage of these lessons is that the teacher in the lesson gives a clear explanation of the skills being taught, which aids pupil understanding. They can be watched at any time of the day, to fit in with your child's access to a device and your working day.

Pre-Recorded Voice Over PowerPoints

Teachers will continue to prepare voice over guidance to their own PowerPoints to support teaching and learning throughout the curriculum.

Pre-Recorded Lessons from our Teachers

Teachers will also pre-record some lessons, particularly phonics, shared reading and 'afternoon' lessons to introduce concepts, share tasks and model the activity. This is something that we have particularly developed over the past week as a staff. Again, the advantage is that they give children clear teaching and can be accessed at any time of the day as well as another opportunity for the children to see one of their teachers.

Daily Live Check-ins and Phone Calls

We understand that one of the difficulties for our pupils during lockdown is that they are not seeing their classmates or their teachers. We have been delighted with how popular and useful the daily check-ins have been to allow children to see each other and also to explain the learning for the day. These will continue and we are grateful for your support in helping your child to access them.

We will continue to make phone calls to families not accessing our in-school provision. Please remember that these phone calls are likely to be made from a withheld number.

Other Initiatives

As well as the lessons above, we will also be including a number of other initiatives and ways to support and engage the children. These include:

- A weekly Act of Worship on our school values, including a talk and prayer from Rev'd Ian Crofts
- Daily exercise and PE suggestions
- A Mental Health and Wellbeing Week on week commencing 1st February
- An Arts Trophy competition
- A weekly survey for our children to tell us how they are
- An optional parent consultation for parents to discuss home learning and their own wellbeing with the class teacher in the last week of half term (more details to follow).

A detailed information letter for parents as well as our Remote Learning Policy can be found on our website in the Home Learning section or by clicking: <https://www.fortyhill.com/page/?title=Home+Learning&pid=95>

Some parents may be wondering why we are not offering 'live' lessons. Ofsted has recently published guidance which states that: *'Live lessons are not always the best. It can be hard to build interaction and flexibility. This means that giving feedback can actually be less effective than when we use recorded lessons, followed by tasks and feedback'*.

In addition to this, not all children are able to engage in live lessons at the same time, due to siblings using the devices. We believe that the quality of the lessons we provide is of a high standard and is accessible to all children, whatever time of the day they are able to use a device. The responses from the children are demonstrating that they are understanding the tasks and moving forward with their learning.

These are difficult times but we are doing our best to continue your child's learning journey. We appreciate the work that you are having to do with your children, whilst balancing your own working life and we hope that these additional developments will support you further. Forty Hill's dedicated staff are working hard to plan high quality lessons but all of these new ways of working are unfamiliar to us too. Please bear with us as we try to build our skills around the technology that we have and remember that some of us find this easier than others!

Keep safe and well.

With my very best wishes

Mr Josh Newham
Headteacher