



Headteacher: Mr. Neil McKellar-Turner

Friday 15 January 2021

Headteacher Update #1

Dear Families,

I would like to start by saying a **huge thank you for your tremendous effort and support** over the last two weeks as we have all had to quickly adapt to another lockdown and a return to remote education. Last Monday's INSET, where we were planning for term three as usual, seems like a distant memory!

It has been great to receive your feedback on our provision for learning at home this term. We have listened to your views from the last lockdown and I hope this is clear to see. You will no doubt be aware that the expectations placed upon schools by the Department for Education, this time around, are much higher; schools have been told that they need to provide a minimum of 3 hours for pupils in Key Stage 1 and 4 hours for those in Key Stage 2.

Whilst our provision more than meets this criteria, we are always mindful that, for many of you, supporting your child's learning is just one of many things you may be trying to juggle at present. This is why we have tried to maintain some **flexibility within our learning offer**. For some of you, strict timings and live lessons will not fit around your working patterns or other childcare so we have advised a suggested daily timetable but appreciate that the learning may be done at different times. We also realise that, on some days, it may just not be possible to complete all of the learning set; this is understood by our staff team. We kindly ask that you keep us informed should any issues arise or you are having difficulty supporting your child to engage. **Learning from home is not optional this time around**; it is our expectation that all children will access the learning on offer; this matches what we are teaching in school and, by engaging, we aim to avoid losing the momentum that we built up during the autumn term and ensure that your child does not develop any significant gaps during this second period of school closure. It is also hugely important for your child's **social and emotional wellbeing** that they join the daily Teams meetings so that they can stay connected with their teacher and class.

We are keeping our **provision under continual review** to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all of our pupils as best we can; from next week, we will be adding an additional Teams meeting for pupils in KS2. This will take the form of a live drop-in surgery whereby anyone who needs some additional support with learning on that day, or requires further explanation, will be able to join the meeting and get some direct support from the teacher. The teachers have also now filmed their own phonics lessons for next week; these are much more tailored to the needs of our children and I am sure your children will really enjoy a more personal phonics session from a familiar face! Early next week, you will also be receiving a short online survey to gather your initial views about remote learning. Please do respond so that we can adapt what we are providing to meet the needs of our CCH family.

Below, you will find some other key information and updates.

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Devices

We are aware that access to devices is proving a barrier to learning at home for some families. We have just purchased a small number of laptops and are awaiting a further allocation from the DfE. We will be providing these, in the first instance, to any vulnerable pupils who are in need of support. After this, we will work through the list of pupils who have requested support with devices. We still have some free data SIM cards and internet dongles should internet access be an issue.

If you have any old laptops or tablets (working condition and would enable access to the internet as well as the ability to watch online videos) that you no longer use and would be willing to donate to a family who require additional devices, we would be grateful to receive these.

For anyone struggling with devices, you are able to access Microsoft Teams via a PlayStation or Xbox.

Don't have a laptop? You can access Remote Learning through your Xbox or PlayStation



The diagram features the Xbox logo on the left and the PlayStation logo on the right. A green arrow points from the Xbox logo to its list of instructions, and a black arrow points from the PlayStation logo to its list of instructions. A decorative graphic of blue and green circles is in the top right corner.

1. Plug in a keyboard and mouse (if you have them) into the USB port
2. Go to My Games and Apps
3. Find and open Microsoft Edge
4. Type in www.office.com as you would to access Office 365
5. Login and you can access Teams, Office 365, Outlook and OneDrive
6. You can also use Kinect for audio

1. Press the PS4 Logo on the controller
2. Go to the library and find the internet browser (WWW)
3. Open the browser
4. Type in www.office.com as you would to access Office 365
5. Login and you can access Teams, Office 365, Outlook and OneDrive

Reading books

Reading remains one of our key priorities during lockdown. It is vital that all **children continue to read daily** as this is such a key component of learning.

Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1, who are receiving daily phonics teaching, will be sent a downloadable phonics book each week to use; these will be specific to the set of sounds your child is learning. Children in year 2 and above will be provided with reading books on Wednesdays to take home. These need to be returned on a Monday so that we can quarantine and clean them for 48 hours before allocating new books again on a Wednesday.

For children in year 2 and above, who are not attending school, we will be returning to our **weekly book swap, from next Wednesday 20 January**, where you will be able to collect and return reading scheme books and books for free readers. This visit will have to form part of your daily exercise and we ask that you maintain social distancing and wear a face covering. Please also continue to use the Oxford Owl website which gives access to a wide range of books based on the schemes that we use in school:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Celebrating learning

From next week, we will be holding our **weekly celebration assemblies online**. In these, teachers will identify a pupil from each class who has demonstrated excellent learning behaviour either at home or school that week. This term, we will be focussing on using **'Emerald Power'** which is all about showing **courage in learning and being brave to have a go at new things**.



This power also means that you are not afraid to make mistakes and show 'stickability' by being able to persevere with things even when they are tricky. I will also be sending out weekly **Christ Church Celebration Cards** to those children who have demonstrated superb effort and attitude. We cannot wait to find out who will be shining with emerald power next week and who will be the first to receive a celebration card through the post!

Free School Meals

At present, for any pupils who are in receipt of free school meals but not attending school, we have offered a weekly food box. However, the government has announced that it will be reinstating the national supermarket voucher scheme from last year so we will be in touch shortly to ask for your preference.

For any pupils attending school during this time, our catering team will be resuming the usual dinner menu from Monday 18 January. School meals continue to be booked in the usual way via ParentPay.

Keeping safe

Please remember that even if your child is not attending school, **we are always here to support you in any way that we can**. If you have questions about the learning for your child, please contact the class teacher via ClassDojo. Should you have any wider concerns or need someone to speak to, please contact us. Below are some useful links for supporting families at this time:

- Safer internet advice for families: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>
- Young Minds- supporting your child's mental health: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>
- Emergency Food Aid: <https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/for-your-body/eat-well/food-poverty-support/>

A huge thank you for all that you are doing and for your continued support and understanding. Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,

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