

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Christ the King News

Dear Parents,

As we end our fourth week of remote learning, I wanted to thank you for your continued efforts and support throughout these challenging times. For those of you working from home, I want to say a huge thank you for what you are doing – juggling your work commitments alongside home schooling is a massive challenge and can be very stressful. The guilt of balancing your child's learning against your need to earn a living is not a fair or easy choice. Please understand that although we obviously will continue to promote pupil engagement and encourage all pupils to complete their learning, we believe that your wellbeing and that of your child comes first. Wellbeing resources are posted on our Covid-19 webpage and in previous newsletters. If life becomes too hard, our pastoral team, Mrs Hodge, Mrs Perry and myself, will be happy to talk to you and signpost support. We will also continue to keep all of our families and staff in our prayers - our faith sustains us in hoping for a Covid-free future.

All CTK school staff are now tested for Covid-19 twice a week - this measure will help us to maintain a healthy Covid free environment. Many of you may be keeping a close eye on the news and wondering when school will reopen for all pupils. We do not yet know the exact date; however schools have been promised two weeks' advanced warning.

#### **Good News**

There has been much to celebrate again this week. We are thrilled that now most of our pupils are completing their remote learning and joining in live sessions with their teachers and class mates – well done!

We are also excited that more laptops arrived this week courtesy of the Government and 30 more pupils have now been able to borrow a device and access their remote learning lessons. Laptop loans are making such a huge difference to so many of our families. If we know that you are struggling or if your child needs a laptop to work on we will do our best to provide a device.

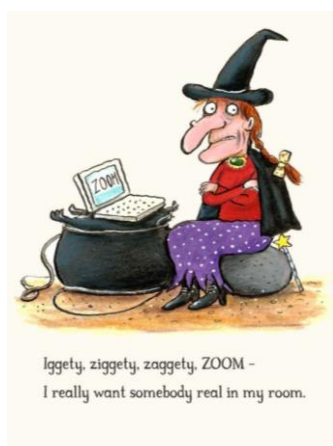
Below are some examples of remote learning successes for some of our Year 2 pupils and their families:



## **Remote Learning at Christ the King School**

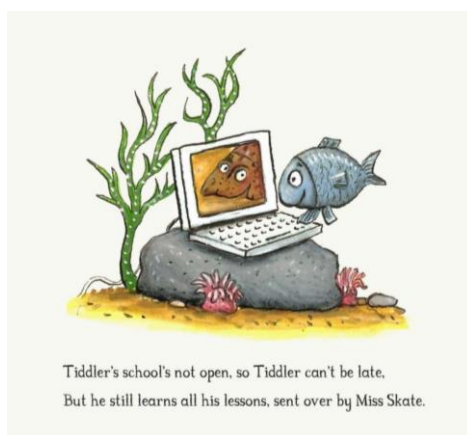
**Routine and Structure:** Having a good routine will help you to structure your days whilst at home. Routine will also help your child to remember that each day (Monday to Friday) is still a school day and a learning day.

**Share the Learning:** If your child prefers to work on paper, that is ok – please take a photo or scan of their learning and upload it to their learning platform (Google Classroom or tapestry) or email it to their teacher please.



**Reading:** if you do not have books at home to read there are a wealth of books on line that you can access, either through your child's Bug Club log in, Oxford Owl or CBeebies, etc. We can loan a limited supply of books to those most in need. This lockdown is the perfect opportunity to read those books that have been sitting on your bookshelf since Christmas this year or last!

**Brain Breaks:** Looking at a computer screen all day is not good for anyone's health and wellbeing so we do advice regular breaks, fresh air and time away from devices. Each year group will ensure that there is a least one afternoon each week which is a screen free learning afternoon.



If you have any concerns about remote learning please do email your child's class teacher. Teachers set up to 3 hours learning a day for younger children and 4-5 hours a day for children in KS2 – this is in line with the government expectation for Primary aged school children. You can read our **Remote Learning Provision Overview** on our website on the Covid 19 page.

Differentiating work for pupils is much harder to do remotely than it is in the classroom so if you find that your child is struggling or the work is too easy, please do let their class teacher know. The teachers can pitch the work more accurately if your child 'turns in' their completed work – they will use this to plan your child's next steps.

### **Virtual Parents Evening**

After half term there will be an opportunity for you and your child to meet with the class teacher remotely. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss your child's learning, their progress, next steps and their wellbeing. We are hoping that all parents and pupils sign up to the meetings – more information to follow next week.

### **Being Kind to Ourselves**

Thank you to Mrs Sargeant who has designed our first 'Being Kind to Ourselves' activity programme. All families are invited to try out some of the ideas below when having screen free time! Try it – it'll be fun!

## Being KIND to ourselves

*Spending family time together away from our screens is one of the most important things we can choose to do. Here are our suggestions for you to choose from.*

<p>Head outside together on a really cold morning to find cobwebs and tracks. What can you discover together?</p> 	<p>Play a game of rounders or cricket together. Who shows the most courage in your game?</p> 	<p>Create a family message of kindness to post through a neighbour's door.</p> 	<p>Take a rainy day walk together - everyone in wellies!</p> 	<p>Plant something new - seeds, bulb or a seedling.</p> 
<p>Write a family letter to someone else in your family.</p> 	<p>Bake or make something you've never eaten before!</p> 	<p>Play a board game in teams.</p> 	<p>Take a walk to a different street and count your steps!</p> <p>5,000? 10,000? 15,000?</p> 	<p>Re-use something plastic to create something new!</p> 

### **Let Us Pray**

We give thanks for:

- The laptops that we have received from DfE that are enabling more children to engage with remote learning.
- Staff at school having access to Covid-19 testing kits so that we can maintain a healthy environment.
- Some of our staff and family members, who have been ill with COVID 19, are recovering.
- All the good things in our life – our families, our friends, our school.

We pray for:

- All those unwell with COVID-19, especially loved ones in hospital.
- The recently deceased, that their souls may rest in peace and their families will find comfort.
- All those who are lonely, sad and depressed at this time.
- Fr Chacko and all members of our Christ the King School and Parish family.

**And finally,** have a good weekend and enjoy time with your loved ones.

Best wishes to you all.

Clare Tickel  
Headteacher

*faith*  
*hope*  
*love*

