



8th January, 2021

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of what has been a challenging and frustrating week for both schools and families we hope that you and your families remain well and have the support that you require to navigate the next few months. The team at CTK have certainly tried our best to give you information as soon as it has become available and to be transparent and fair. We do not want any family within our community to feel isolated or have to struggle.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CHILDCARE PROVISION

We have seen a dramatic increase this lockdown in the number of places required for critical worker (CW) children and we strongly urge parents who do not need a place to keep their children at home. Thank you for the patience of these parents as there is a lot of administration involved in sorting out the provision. In order to ensure we keep within our capacity and still have room for our most vulnerable pupils to attend, we need to prioritise based on clear guidance from the DfE. Currently there is no wrap around care, however if this changes we let our CW families know asap.

Pre-School

Our Pre-School provision is open but only where a place has been agreed in advance by the pre-school leader.

Communication with School

To ensure ease of communication we ask that ALL current correspondence be sent ONLY to covid@ctkcps.com

General enquiries related to non-covid issues may be sent to the school general email. Learning or pastoral queries may be emailed directly to the class teachers.

Remote Learning

There is an expectation from the government that schools provide a quality Education that mirrors the learning they would have done in school pre lockdown.

Although remote learning will be a mixture of digital learning and other learning tasks, we recognise that children will need regular breaks away from devices. Using a smart phone or ipad can assist in some digital learning but ideally, to be fully effective, the children should have access for part of each day to a laptop. We have loaned out some available laptops and hope now that all families who

require one have informed us. The government has promised more but these will be prioritised according to need and circumstances.

The teachers are working extended hours to set up the learning systems so that all pupils can access learning more easily on line. Teachers have also worked hard to make the documents they post on Google Classroom more child- friendly and accessible. Each year group will send out a letter imminently to explain their provision and expectations.

Staff provide work for your children to complete during the core learning hours between 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday and it is expected that all primary aged children do a minimum of 3 to 4 hours learning each day.

If your child is stuck on an assignment and does not know what to do please always encourage them to message the 'teacher' straight away and one of the teachers will get back to them. We want the children to interact with the teachers and ask questions about their learning so that we can prevent children getting frustrated or stuck.

If teachers were to become unwell they are not expected to work. Year groups are therefore working in collaborative teams and any member of a teaching team may respond to messages posted by yourself or your child. If your child is in Year 2, for instance, any one of the Year 2 teachers or support team may reply to you queries; each team member is trained, skilled and ready to help.

So long as our staff remain well we will be able to continue to offer quality remote learning and care on site for Critical Worker children.

It is expected that each year group will post a weekly schedule and timetable of learning to enable you and your child to formulate a good weekly routine. Lessons will take a variety of forms including some video lessons, powerpoints and regular 15 minute class time on zoom or Google Meet. Children are still expected to have a daily quiet time for prayer and reflection. Assemblies and prayer links will be posted for this purpose on Tapestry or Google Classroom.

There is a strict code of conduct for any face to face meetings which includes the requirement of a parent being in the same room as the child, each child participant should be sitting still and not moving around the room.

Teachers will provide paper copies of learning for you to collect from the office – please give notice so that we can prepare these quickly for you.

If you are needing additional learning resources at home to support your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will loan what we can to make the learning easier and more accessible.

Tracking Engagement Online

There is a legal requirement for schools to track pupil engagement in remote learning and staff will follow up any pupils who do not log on each day to complete their learning schedule. Since your child is enrolled at Christ the King School it is our responsibility to provide the learning and robustly follow up non engagement which amounts to your child missing out on their education.

Feedback

The government are keen to hear from schools about remote learning. We sincerely hope that you are pleased with the efforts we have made to ensure your child has a broad and balanced curriculum offer. If so, we would be grateful if you could contact Ofsted, through Twitter: @Ofstednews . We understand from colleagues that many parents have done so to praise schools.

The Feast of the Epiphany

Wishing you all the blessings of the Christmas season and just as the wise men left the young Jesus with stars in their eyes and love in their hearts so may we share this love with those around us in our community.

We pray for each and every one of you, your families, your loved ones and all in our community.

*Let us pray
We pray for courage where there is fear,
Hope where there is despair,
Faith in each other and God's loving protection,
Love in all our actions and thoughts.
May we all be blessed with strong hearts and minds.
Amen.*

And finally,

Thank you so much for your understanding and support so far. We appreciate this is a very challenging and unnerving time for everyone but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any issues. We will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can - staff are not expected to respond outside of school opening hours. Take care and stay well.

Yours sincerely,

CTickel

Headteacher

