



# BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

## REMOTE LEARNING

Firstly, can I thank all of those parents who have communicated with us about the remote learning over the last week and our current approach.

As a staff we have carefully considered the best way to approach remote learning by taking into account the feedback from parents and children in the last lockdown. We believe that we are offering a high quality package of carefully planned and blended learning to both children experiencing school-based learning and home-based remote learning. Our package consists of recorded messages from staff, set learning e.g. worksheets and use of school subscriptions such as Active Learn, IXL and Accelerated Reader.

We appreciate that schools are all approaching remote learning in slightly different ways but we ask that our provision is not compared to other schools, particularly those that are larger than us and secondary schools. Some schools can facilitate one teacher supporting children in school and another providing on-line learning for children at home, however all our teachers are based in the classroom.

A very small number of parents have enquired about 'live' lessons in school. This is not something we will be offering in general, as is the case in many, many other primary schools. This is due to safeguarding, data protection and broadband challenges. The staff are conscious that 'live' remote teaching lessons, which involve children at home and at school, raises concerns about protection of information and privacy for other children. Staff are very skilled at responding to children in class and are concerned that if parents or siblings are also present there is potential for judgements and comments to be made and an infringement of personal privacy. Some parents, particularly those with children with SEND may not want their child to be live on camera. We are however providing appropriate online learning, videos (which can be watched several times to assist with learning) and regular live well-being sessions for all children experiencing remote learning. Staff are already ensuring that regular telephone and Zoom contact is maintained.

The Ofsted Guidance, which was published on Monday, is very clear that 'on-line' live lessons are not the 'gold standard'. Staff will however be arranging Zoom meetings for children in the week in order to catch up and discuss learning. We know from the emails received that some households are struggling with connectivity and access and we will do our best to assist in any way we can help but this does show the challenges of live lessons.

We are also very mindful that we are only able to work with the resources that families have and the significant change in numbers of children attending school. During the last lockdown we did a survey that showed many children were only able to access resources on a parent's phone, many did not have access to a computer or were needing to share a device with siblings and parents working from home and some children had no access.

We know that many schools are using platforms such as google classroom to allow children to access work from class teachers but for many, many schools this platform is being used to upload work and not for direct teaching - we are uploading our work on the school website for

ease of access and also providing 50 families with paper copies/learning packs because they do not have access to devices for use during the day. This is something that is in the forefront of our minds.

Some families have very different schedules based on their work commitments (and possible access to computers etc.) and are therefore completing their home learning at different times of the day and at weekends. Staff are very keen that this flexibility continues.

We will however now set up face to face meetings for the classes, to share what they have been doing and have some form of social interaction every week. We are very mindful that we do not want to disadvantage children who are unable to join on-line meeting. However, we are constantly looking at ways of improving what we do.

The children who are attending school are not all attending full-time in order to allow us to accommodate all Critical Workers children (as defined by the DfE) and this is based on their work patterns. For this we are extremely grateful. We are also grateful to those parents who have made alternative provision to ensure the numbers in school are manageable.

This lockdown has felt very different and I am sorry that a few parents find that remote learning is not working for them at this time. I can assure you that staff are working extremely hard to serve and care for all the children under completely unprecedented circumstances. We know that there are huge anxieties at present and I commend all the staff for their commitment and dedication.

However, thank you to those who have sent the most wonderful emails and messages of support and kindness. We urge everyone to be patient and kind to one another. This is not a situation any of us wanted to be in however there are better times ahead.

Yours

  
Mrs Sue Green