



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

January 2020

Live, Love and Learn Together

Important dates for your diary: Coming up...

Breakfast Club:
*Suspended until further
notice*

SPORTS COACH SESSIONS

*Wednesday for ASH
CLASS, please wear PE
kit.*

Forest school sessions
*MAPLE CLASS, every
Friday please wear play
clothes and supply
wellies.*

Message from Mrs Terrey.

Welcome back to 2021. I hope you and your family had a wonderful time over the Festive period, although that does seem like a distant memory. As you can imagine this is not the way the staff and I expected to start the New Year. I would like to thank you for your patience as we navigate the ever-changing requirements and directives from the Government. We are doing the best we can to keep you updated regarding plans once we are confident, they will not change significantly. I am in awe of the teaching staff and how they have prepared, planned and adapted to ensuring that learning for the children continues both at home and in school.

I would like to start by reassuring you all that the staff are here to support you and the children both at school and at home. School is open to your child either in person or remotely. Please contact school staff if you need support and we will work with you to deal with issues.

We know that for families working remotely this is challenging and it is challenging in school too, but as before go at your own pace, be realistic in your expectations of yourself and your children.

This newsletter will be the first over the forthcoming days that will provide information and guidance as we settle into the new way of education. I do not want to overwhelm parents with too much information all at once.

Where can I find information on the remote home learning?

Please use the school website and refer to the Home School Learning page. Staff have been scheduling work in Google classroom for all classes since lockdown. This work follows exactly as it is in school. It is important that children complete as much of the work set as possible. Teachers will be monitoring this by checking Google classroom and IXL.

I cannot make Google classroom or IXL work- what can I do?

All children have IXL and Google classroom passwords. These enable them to see all the scheduled tasks, recordings and resources. If this is not working or passwords have been lost, please contact school by email and a member of staff can support you in making sure you can access the platforms.

Where should my child do the work?

How the work is completed at home needs to work for you. Sometimes there may be a worksheet- if this can be printed out at home great! If this is not

possible completing on paper or in a child's notebook is fine too. It needs to work for you at home.

What do I do once the work is finished?

Teachers will be checking that pupils are engaging with learning. School is open and children should be learning. The attendance of pupils in Google classroom and IXL is monitored from school so teachers can see where work is not being accessed and if this is regular teachers will discuss this with parents and children.

In IXL completed work is automatically returned to teachers. In Google classroom work must be submitted. On the Home Learning page of the website, there is a link to a guide on how to achieve this. Work can be submitted as a photo, video, or document. As before, it must work for you at home.

My child will not do any of it- what do I do? Can they come to school?

This is a tricky one. The situation we all find ourselves in is so hard. As the parent of a 16- and 9-year-old it has been difficult to maintain a routine, but it has helped. Try and stick to a routine if you can but do not worry- start gently with reading a book if things do not go well.

Teachers will provide times on Google classroom lessons so that children can join in a live way through the chat option if they want to. This means that they can ask for help from the teacher and be in the lesson with their class. We currently do not have IT to support live lessons, but we are working towards this soon. Lessons and teacher inputs are recorded so you can move onto a different task and return to a lesson if you need to on another day.

The teacher or TA from your child's class will also call you weekly to check in on how things are going- so if there are issues talk it through with them on the phone or email school sooner. As a school we are at the limit of our safe capacity supporting key worker and vulnerable pupils so there are no places currently available.

How do I contact my child's teacher?

All staff are in school. They are available to be contacted from 8.30 to 3.30. Please be mindful that they will respond to emails as soon as they can, but it may not be immediate. These are the staff email contacts.

Oak and Birch classes: EarlyYearsTeam@stcatherinesbridport.dorset.sch.uk

Sycamore - Mrs Harris: lharris@stcatherinesbridport.dorset.sch.uk

Ash Class - Mrs Dickson: gdickson@stcatherinesbridport.dorset.sch.uk

Hazel Class - Miss Cross: pcross@stcatherinesbridport.dorset.sch.uk

Maple - Mrs Franklin: jfranklin@stcatherinesbridport.dorset.sch.uk

How much remote learning should we be doing?

Government has issued guidance that in Key Stage, Birch, Oak and Sycamore classes children should be completing 3 hours of learning a day. In Key stage 2, Ash, Hazel and Maple classes this should be 4 hours a day. This is **guidance**.

Learning can be broken up into chunks of time if that suits your family. It is perfectly fine to do more or less depending upon the mood at home and stress levels!

We are struggling with computer/device access can I have help?

Technology is great when it works! If there are issues, please contact school and where we can resolve issues from school, we will help you to do that. If the issue is linked to difficulties because you do not have an appropriate device such as an iPad or laptop, please contact school to discuss the possibility of loaning equipment. We cannot offer this to everyone, but we can consider how we help you. As a final resort, we can provide paper packs and textbooks.

What work is being set?

Teachers are setting a normal curriculum. There will be English and Maths work for children to complete with recordings, resources and worksheets. IXL supports these activities and the children can complete these skills possibly with greater independence. There will also be afternoon lessons such as RE, Science, Art and Humanities across the week.

What about reading?

At this time, we will not be sending home reading books or packs as we have done previously in Key Stage 1. Please share and read books and stories with your children for 15 mins a day.

In Key Stage 2 there is Accelerated Reader. This is now available to access at home. Children can read their own books. Check the school remote Home learning page. There is a website called AR bookfinder. This will allow you or your child to check if there is an AR quiz. If there is great! They will be able to read the book and take a quiz from home. When taking the quiz, they must log into the AR website using the link on the school website on the remote home learning page. They will need their password and log on details, which was stuck into their reading record. If you cannot find this contact, school and it will be sent to you.

If there is no quiz, they can still read and enjoy the book. Try and aim for 15 mins of reading a day.

Finally...

This is totally unprecedented and effecting the whole world. There will be good days and bad days, but you are not alone we are here to help as much as we can. Children all learn in different ways and at their own pace. You know your children and family best, take your time to readjust and develop what works best for you. This is not forever and while it might feel impossible sometimes, we **can** do this.

Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and then suddenly you are doing the impossible.

Francis of Assisi

