

Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School

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Exemplary education for all, through God's amazing grace

Learning, Integrity, Dignity, Love, Confidence.

Learning together, as we journey with God in Love, we act with Integrity, treat others with Dignity and grow in Confidence.

Dear Families,

29th of January, 2021

Re. Lockdown January 21 – possibly 8th of March 2021

As you know, Lockdown 3 has now been extended, until possibly the 8th of March 2021. This makes it even more important that all children engage in the learning, to the best of everyone's ability, in their circumstances. In this week just gone, we were able to give out the chrome books which we received from the DFE, which means that as far as we have been able, each child now has access to a chrome book. Please support your child by making sure they have checked the stream for their class Meets with the teacher, and check for any follow-up Meets that may be added in the day, as teachers and support staff respond to learning or any other issues they need to. Whilst it is not necessary for adults to stay with children in the Google Meets, please try to reinforce good online routines, such as having the camera on so that staff can see all of the children, which helps to gauge their understanding and using any 'chat' facility respectfully. School rules still apply.

Feedback on children's work- priorities and a balanced curriculum

- In the morning Google Meets, staff explain the work to be done in the day, and have spent time ensuring that everything is accessible, as well as suitably challenging, for every child.
- The staff explain to the children about the focus of the daily work and the learning that they would like to be prioritised to be returned by the time of the next Google Meet in the afternoon, to seek to maximise learning opportunities. Teachers know what the potentially tricky elements of the Maths or English are, and seek to address these in the afternoons, after looking at the work 'turned in' by the children in the day time. Given that each child turns in work at different times, the staff are looking at the work when it is turned in through the day, and then they try to give the best whole class feedback that they can, and in addition ask to see children after the Meet if there is more follow-up needed. It is therefore, in the best interests of the child to return the prioritised work in time for the Google Meet in the afternoon. The extra Google Meets can take significant teacher time, trying to ensure that all children are engaged and progressing in their learning daily.
- Foundation work is also most definitely being looked at by teachers across each week. To make best use of time, teachers may make whole class comments on these subjects. I also know from talking to teachers that they are also seeking to get children to share some of this learning in the Google Meets in the afternoon, where possible, such as art.

Moving forward

- As we get to know Google Classroom more, its features and mechanisms, we are seeking to use it in increasingly better ways. We would also like to continue to refine other learning opportunities.
- **By half term each year group will send out a summary sheet to families outlining what is working well within each year group, and how the year group can move forward after half term.**
- We are aware that children may have exhausted their own resources of reading material so we will be seeking to ensure that every child has access to sufficient reading resources, whether online reading, audio resources, or children in school bringing books home.
- Staff will be seeking to ensure that children can have a balance of handwritten work and online work. They are sending out clear instructions about how to upload photos of handwritten work. We encourage children to continue to do some work in handwritten form as well as use their chrome books effectively.
- Spelling – we will continue to send out spelling patterns required in each year group, alongside statutory words. The spelling work will involve some handwriting, where children have to use the words in the context of the grammar they are learning.
- After half term we will also be introducing a new online spelling programme. NB This is not to replace the spelling work being set because the patterns and statutory work are the essential work. The spelling programme will provide individual spelling pathways and help to reinforce patterns and statutory words, and gives lots of games and activities to support spelling.
- Teachers are learning to utilise Google Forms effectively. After half term there will be daily arithmetic set on Google Forms, which will self-mark and give scores that can be recorded.

Assessment of learning

So that we can meet learning needs after Lockdown 3, children's learning will be assessed when they return to school once again. As you know, we had assessed the autumn learning and impact of Lockdown 1 (to the best of our ability) in December and had a gauge of children's progress and gaps. We had tailored plans to carry on with seeking to meet age related expectations in January. Now we have had a new Lockdown, have sought to engage *every child in their normal learning* and will need to assess that when we return to school. We will re-assess reading and writing, give end of unit assessments in Maths and also assess children's understanding of their knowledge organisers in their foundation subjects.



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The reason for explaining this is two-fold:

- 1) To encourage everyone to continue to learn at home; all effort is worthwhile and to be encouraged.
- 2) Not to add pressure to those in difficult circumstances. We are aware of children in very difficult situations, whether with illness, bereavement, emotional issues or perhaps working conditions. **We do trust that everyone is doing their best** and have been working alongside many families to help. We will be taking account of those circumstances when we return to school.

However, it is still the case that we need to gauge each child's learning when we are back in school, so that we are able to cater for their needs moving forward. It is a complex situation and we will need to do our best to work through it in the best way we can, taking account of wellbeing and learning progress together.

Reminders:

For those working on paper, it is possible to bring that work back to school. There will be a box underneath the table where packs are collected each week. Work may be placed there; it will be quarantined and then passed on.

If, for any reason, staff lose their Wi-Fi connection, we would ask that the children stay online for the duration of what was meant to be the Google Meet session. This allows the staff maximum time to seek to retrieve the Meet. If it is not possible to re-establish the Meet within the time frame, then please make sure your child monitors the stream so that they can see if the teacher wants to meet them at a different time.

Those entitled to free school meals will receive further vouchers next week. If there are families who are having any difficulties with this, please let us know.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Gruffydd - Headteacher