



Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Christ Church children and parents,

Information about our home learning plans – January 2021

We are all really disappointed that we won't be seeing you in school over at least the next couple of weeks but we don't want you to lose touch with us or to stop learning, of course! We really hope this will be for as short a period as possible and that everyone will be back in school soon.

This letter sets out how we are going to help children to learn at home over the next few weeks and how we are going to help parents to help their children with their learning. We know that parents (and other carers) will be helping out with learning a lot in the next few weeks and we want to make this as easy as we can. Thank you very much in advance to parents and carers for all their help and support.

There are three main aims of the way we have set up our home learning at Christ Church:

- to keep in regular contact with all our children and families
- to keep children learning and thinking and to support parents/carers to help with this at home
- to provide structure, routine and daily tasks for children while they are at home

Some of our systems for home learning are the same as the ones we used successfully last year; others we have changed or added as we have learnt from our experiences and the feedback given to us by children, parents and staff. Even if you were involved in this last year, please read this carefully to find out about how it is working this time. I know there is a lot of information here, so please ask if you have any questions or if anything is not clear.

These are our plans to keep all children learning:

Summary:

- Daily lessons set on google classroom (four lessons for Years 2-6 and three for Reception and Year 1)
- Full coverage of our curriculum including new content
- Videos with many lessons to support children's learning
- Lesson activities will include a range of tasks from our paper packs, online and practical tasks
- Feedback from teachers on work submitted by children on google classroom
- Class email addresses in use for direct communication with class teachers
- Twice weekly zoom 'keeping in touch' sessions with class teachers and the whole class, plus whole school golden certificates assembly on zoom each Friday

Details

- Class teachers will set a **daily programme of work** for each class. We will try to provide clear instructions about each task and activity and provide all the information or links that children and parents need.
- The programme of work for each day will appear on your child's google classroom page by 8am each morning. It will be split into lessons to be completed each day.
- We will be sending out a separate information sheet to help parents and children to log in to their google classroom, find their lessons and submit their work. This is new to all of us so bear with us as we get started and ask if you have any problems. For the first day, we will set shorter lessons to allow everyone time to get to grips with the new technology.
- We think a daily programme is important, rather than setting tasks for a longer period, so that children have tasks to do each day to keep them learning, thinking and making progress. The lessons for the day can, however, be completed in any order – we hope this provides flexibility for parents who are also trying to work from home and those who are sharing devices.
- Each class from Year 2 to Year 6 will be set four daily lessons to do. Reception and Year 1 will be set three daily lessons. Many of the tasks will have a suggested time limit for them to ensure children spend about the right

amount of time on learning each day – not too little and not too long, either! (This is in line with our usual number of lessons in school each day and in line with the government’s expectation that primary school children receive a minimum of 3/4 hours of remote learning (KS1/KS2) during any period of school closure.)

- On most days, there will be an English lesson and a Maths lesson to do but we will also be covering our full planned curriculum through our home learning. For Maths and English, in particular, will often be directing children to a particular activity or sheet in the paper packs we have sent home. Please don’t let your child go further ahead in these packs; we have put them together in a particular order and to last for a period of time.
- For many lessons there will also be video content to watch – this will be a mixture of videos pre-recorded by our teachers and other good quality online teaching video content (e.g. DfE Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize content). Having learnt from our experience last year, we will include more of this sort of content as well as more teacher voice notes on presentations this time.
- As they would be doing in school, teachers will use the home learning lessons both to introduce new content in the curriculum to move children’s learning on and to consolidate previous learning in order to practise and apply skills and ensure children remember them in the long term.
- On many days, one of the lessons will be an online task and we will direct children and parents to a specific website to use. We are very aware that we want to limit children’s screen time where we can and this is one of the reasons for our paper packs and exercise books.
- On many days, one of the lessons will be a practical task – this could include making, drawing or building something or even helping with the cooking. There will be something to write down or draw about this task at the end, too. These activities worked particularly well last year and allowed children to learn and practise a range of skills across the curriculum.
- In the lesson instructions on google classroom, teachers will make it clear what needs to be handed in. For at least one of the lessons each day, children’s work will need to be sent back in to your teacher using google classroom to submit the work – teachers will make clear in their instructions which piece this is. We would welcome and encourage you to submit other pieces of work as well. You can submit photos of children’s work in their books/drawings, word documents or completed sheets which have been sent with the lesson instructions (see google classroom information sheet for details). Please make sure photos are as clear as you can. Thank you in advance to parents for their help with this.
- Teachers will use the functions on google classroom to provide feedback on at least one of the pieces of work handed in each day – just like in school, this feedback might be in the form of a general comment or specific comments about areas to improve or change. We may then ask children to edit and improve their piece of work using this feedback.
- There will also be ongoing daily tasks set such as reading, spellings, tricky words and times tables/number facts practice to do and we will be giving children specific strategies to use or tasks to do for this and often asking children to record the practice and reading they do. These ongoing tasks are as important as the other lessons so please support your child to complete these. Our experience during the last school closure told us that many children made great progress with their reading, for example, because of the amazing support parents were able to provide with this at home.
- We have given every child an exercise book to record lots of the work they do at home over this period.

Children, please keep these books neat and tidy, just like your ones at school:

- write the date and Learning Intention/Title as instructed by your teachers
- use pencil (or pen if you have a pen licence) for writing
- use your neatest handwriting
- use pencil for all maths work and drawing
- stick any extra sheets in neatly
- if you are colouring try to use coloured pencil rather than pens

We will ask every child to bring this book back in to share when school reopens, so take pride in it, please!

- We know that not every family has access to the same technology at home so we will try to keep things as simple as possible. We do know, however, that every family receives our emails from school and can access our website on the internet, too. Thank you to parents who will need to give their children supervised access to their own phones/devices in order to access the daily instructions on google classroom or some of the online tasks we set. We know that not every family has a printer at home so we will not set tasks that require things to be printed out. If you do have a printer, feel free to use it to print out tasks and information if you find it useful, though.
- Children of all ages will inevitably be spending more time online – please think about how you supervise and monitor your children’s access to the internet and to your email account over this period. Teachers will also be setting online safety lessons and reminders to support this.

- As last year, we have set up **class email addresses** for general communication with class teachers e.g. year1@cchurchnw3.camden.sch.uk. You will receive general information from class teachers via this email address – to start with, we will send the google classroom instructions from this email address on the afternoon of Monday 4th, so let us know if you do not receive this email. We will not, however, be sending the daily lesson instructions via this email address this time. If you have any general questions about the lessons, using the technology or concerns you would like to share about your child, please use this email address to communicate with teachers. Teachers will check this email address regularly and respond as quickly as they can. Please bear in mind that, on some days, teachers will be in school with the critical worker group and may not be able to respond for a few hours. We suggest that parents check their emails at least daily for communications from teachers/school. For general queries, you can also still use the admin@cchurchnw3.camden.sch.uk email address, of course.
- We are also introducing **twice weekly 15-20 minute zoom ‘keeping in touch’ sessions** for each class. These will help teachers and children to see each other and stay in touch and we know that is something parents and children wanted more of last year. The aim of these sessions is primarily to allow all children to see their teacher and each other and for the teacher to introduce key elements of the tasks for the days ahead and give general feedback about the last few days’ work. These are not full lessons and teachers will come into school to lead these sessions, often on the same days they are supporting the critical worker group.
- We will send more details and the specific expectations for these zoom sessions, as well as the links, from the class email address later this week. These sessions will begin on Wednesday 6th and the weekly timings are:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rec 9.15am	Y1 9.15am	Rec 9.15am	Y1 9.15am	No class sessions
Y2 9.45am	Y3 9.45am	Y2 9.45am	Y3 9.45am	
Y4 10.15am	Y5 10.15am	Y4 10.15am	Y5 10.15am	Golden certificates zoom –
Y6 10.45am		Y6 10.45am		whole school 9.30am

We know from feedback from busy working parents that the flexibility of the timing of our programme of home learning last time was highly valued, but we hope that parents will be able to support children to join these two sessions a week at these specific times and fit this with their own and siblings’ schedules. We do not want to add to the pressure in homes and on shared devices by adding further timed sessions to your weeks.

- As we did last year, we will continue to collate and share children’s home learning work on our website.
- If children are unwell then, of course, just as if school were open, they need to be resting and getting better rather than working that day. Please do let us know via the class email address, though, so we don’t chase you up to return anything.
- In the event of staff illness or self-isolation, we may need to change or reduce the lessons we set, the zoom keeping in touch sessions we offer or the feedback we can give. We will let you know if this is the case; please bear with us.
- Please bear in mind that our set lessons will not fill up your child’s entire day and they are not intended to. Lessons and learning activities do not fill an entire day at school by the time we have fitted in playtimes, lunchtime, assembly and all the other things we do!
- There are lots and lots of additional online and paper-based resources that parents can use to support their children’s learning and supplement what we are setting from school. Feel free to use and complete these too, but please get the daily school lessons finished first! There is a list of useful, general websites on our school website under the links section of the school website <https://christchurchschool.co.uk/links/> Activities on these websites may also help to keep children learning and busy!

We are all hopeful that we can be back in school together soon but, if schools remain closed for longer than the initial two week period, we might work out different ways of doing things and we will let you know if there are any changes to how we are helping children keep learning.

Parents will receive the google classroom instructions via email this afternoon and the first set of lessons will appear on google classroom for each class by 8am on Tuesday 5th January.

With many, many thanks to parents for your support with children’s learning over the next few weeks and to children for their hard work at home.

With best wishes,
Katy Forsdyke
Head teacher