

15.01.2021

Dear Parents and Carers.

REMOTE LEARNING AND ACCESS TO DEVICES

I just wanted to write to update you regarding our Remote Learning offer.

I know that learning at home can be challenging, especially for those also working from home. We are required to set a certain amount of work, but understand where there are circumstances that make this difficult. Please discuss any individual concerns you have about completing the work with your child's class teacher, who will show understanding and help you to prioritise these activities. Please be realistic about what you can achieve as a family and try not to put too much pressure on yourselves to complete everything if this is simply not possible. The most important outcome is that we all remain both physically and mentally well throughout this lockdown. That's not to provide us with an excuse for lowering our expectations or not helping our children with remote learning, but rather highlight the importance of striking the correct balance.

The staff here at St Matthew's have moved quickly to transfer all of our learning online to meet the immediate needs of the children and I am hugely appreciative of parents who have stepped in quickly to facilitate this. As required by the DfE, we have kept the curriculum in line with what it would have been had the children still been in school and have planned for the different stages our children are at. We are also trialling additions to our policy, such as some daily live sessions (currently for our older children) and assemblies, which I would encourage children to attend if at all possible.

Feedback Form

I am aware that we are not on the receiving end seeing our policy in practice at home and we would like to ensure it is offering the best experience possible. This is why we are asking for feedback on our offer and I encourage you to respond with positives and/or ideas for further improvements. What I will say at this point is that whilst we will try and make our offer the best it can be, we are unlikely to please everyone all of the time. Each and every one of our families finds themselves in different circumstances and what may be too much for some families, may be too little for others. Where there are feasible improvements we can make that will benefit the majority, we will do everything we can to act on these. We may also respond to individuals to offer further support or adaptations based on the feedback provided, but you are also welcome to call the office or message teachers if you need to discuss anything further.

You can access the feedback form here: https://forms.gle/67zcz4ECpm9Zkb6T7

Support with devices/Internet to access remote learning

We understand that accessing remote learning can prove a challenge, especially when you do not have a suitable device at home or Internet access. We have access to a limited number of devices for those who have no suitable device at home. A suitable device includes a tablet, laptop (or even a PS4/X-Box for Year 2 – 6 children accessing Google Classroom). Unfortunately, we don't currently have capacity to loan devices to those sharing devices at home, and ask that any flexibility in the day is explored so devices can be shared successfully. For some mobile providers, we can also seek a free upgrade to your mobile data if you have no fixed broadband connection. If you have already made us aware of the need for a device, we will be in touch shortly.

If you have no suitable device at home or no broadband, please complete the form here: https://forms.gle/y8BMBpmwBfNHKTEV8 (accessible via mobile phone) or call the school office on 0161 865 1284 and they will help you to complete it.

Let Your Light Shine

St Matthew's CE Primary School

