



Slyne-with-Hest St. Luke's Church of England Primary School

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Tuesday 12th January,

Google classroom and Home Learning

It is now a week since we entered this new period of lockdown and we are on our fourth full day of home learning provision via Google classroom. It has been a steep learning curve for us in school and I am sure for you at home as well. I would like to thank the staff for the huge amount of time and effort that has gone into making the provision available. During these next few weeks due bear with us as we get used to all aspects of the technology being used. I also thought it was worth sharing some of the things we have already seen and give an update on what to expect.

Firstly, **THANK YOU** to so many of you for engaging so well with this new way of working – it has been encouraging to see so much work completed and returned to us in school. Working together we can continue to take everyone's learning forward.

So what have we learned so far:

- It is very important that children try and keep up with the tasks set – if they are left a few days they will become over facing. It is especially important that those children who are coming into school for some but not all days have done the work for days they are not in. We are not setting individual tasks but units of work (as we do normally in school) which only make sense if they are done in sequence. E.g. a child who comes to school for a face to face day as a key worker will struggle to do Thursdays English task if they have not done Tuesday and Wednesdays
- The availability of laptops / computers is an issue for some. A few people have been creative and added a keyboard to a games console / station or used a phone to access materials and then work on paper. We are trying to access some technology that can be leant out but the government system is yet to fully kick in for Primary schools and even when it does we have only been allocated a very small number of machines. If you are struggling please contact the office and we will see what we can do.

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- Children have felt connected with the children in their class by the use of videos recorded by the teachers, Google meets and the chat facility in older classes.
- The classes that have used Google meet / Zoom so far have had good engagement and the children have behaved well and contributed appropriately. Please note if your child is on a Google meet they will be asked to leave the meeting straight away at the end and not stay on that platform as the member of staff needs to end the call when all participants have left.
- The Google classroom app (available free for Android and I phones) is a very quick and easy way to take photos of work / tasks done and upload to the child's page. If you haven't already found it, it is worth a look.
- All work should be uploaded and sent through the Google classroom as this is being monitored throughout the day. If you have a query about work / technology / general issues please continue to email the teachers as they will see this easier than having to plough through lots of comments on Google classroom – where there is a high chance it will get missed.

Amount of work:

- The core entitlement to work for each child in Years 1 to 6 will be a piece of English work (this may be one task or a series of smaller tasks), a piece of Maths work (again this may or may not include different sections) and another piece of work each day
- The other piece of work will include within a week: a piece of Science work, a History OR Geography piece of work (depending on the current topic), a piece of Art work, a piece of RE work and an IT task
- Other tasks (e.g. French in KS2) may also be set but the core offer is the main work to be covered each day.
- Mrs Cunningham will continue to upload Early Years appropriate tasks
- Please note we are doing our best to send work specific to the needs of the children but some tasks will take some children much longer amounts of time than it would take other children. You know your children and if you feel that they have worked on a task for long enough and have completed all they can please send it through with an appropriate comment.
- If your child finishes the work quickly a) get them to check it and ensure it is their best quality / shows what they are capable of b) if you or they require more tasks linked to the theme go onto the Oak Academy national website and search for ideas. Please note due to the number of children in school and the amount of time needed to upload the core tasks we are not in a position to provide 'extra work'.

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- Different ways of setting the work will be used depending on the members of staff and the age of the children. We are not using a 'one size fits all' model e.g. a video recorded story is working well for younger children while children in UKS2 are responding well to a daily Google meet.

As stated previously, the children in school will be doing the same work as the children at home.

Feedback:

When a piece of work is submitted on Google classroom the member of staff will see there is work to be reviewed and will review it, send a comment and return it. Please note that we don't get a notification to say something has been added to a task from 4/5 days ago so staff are only regularly reviewing the work for that day or that which has a 'due in' date in the future. Comments on older work may not be seen.

If a child is accessing a place in school key worker provision then all the work for those days for them will be recorded as 'completed in school'. It will be clear, therefore, which tasks need to be completed at home on other days.

Work can be uploaded by completing the document online or uploading a photo (easier from the app). If children are doing work in the book sent home please remind them to write neatly in pencil or pen and not use felt tips to write with. Thank you.

Engagement:

We are delighted that most children in most classes have engaged with the learning so far. There are some children who have not, as yet. While we fully understand that there are a wide range of reasons why this can be the case, after a few days have elapsed with no contact / work, the classteacher will contact you either by email or phone and have a conversation about ways in which we can support the home learning to happen. If you feel you want to ask us, then do just drop us an email or ring the school office.

Reading:

A couple of people have asked whether they can call in at school for reading books to be changed. At present, we are not encouraging this as it brings more people onto the school site and also means books are being transferred between more locations. A lot of the school reading books are accessible via Oxford Owl, which you can use for free :

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> Children in KS2 should be encouraged to read widely at home – magazines and papers / books / articles online etc

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Finally, I would stress again this is completely new technology to all of us. We are doing our best to offer the best provision possible but there will be some teething issues. Do bear with us!

We look forward to seeing all the work that is produced and hope it is not too long before all the children can be in school again.

Yours sincerely,

Paul. A. Bowden

Headteacher

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