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Distance Learning Plan

September 2020

Revised

April 2021

At Church of the Ascension, we are committed to making sure that our students can continue to learn and to flourish, even when that learning cannot happen at school. We acknowledge that our rich learning environment at school that offers a broad curriculum and its many enhancements obviously cannot be replicated in homes. We do, however, support and promote the idea that quality learning can occur at a distance from school when the need arises.

The purpose of this document is to describe the actions that Church of the Ascension will take to continue education at home should there be a need for school closure. A full or partial closure of school should not prevent learning, and so we are committed to facilitate learning away from school in as many ways possible. We realise that the circumstances that families face can be vastly different; we aim to ensure that every child at the school can access learning materials and tasks. Whilst a heavy emphasis of our plan is placed on learning remotely using online technology, we also promote the availability of printed materials that can be taken home in the event of a school closure.

Communication to all members of our school community in the event of a school closure will be vital. At Church of the Ascension, we use a range of communication methods, all of which would be available if and when needed. Telephone and text messaging is an obvious method of communication, but we would primarily direct parents and carers to our school website for detailed, up to date information and resources. We will also make use of video messaging, primarily Microsoft Teams, to allow more ‘face to face’ communication. Communication with school staff will be encouraged through email, with the Deputy Headteacher

co-ordinating such communication and website updates.

Our aim is to ensure that relevant, stimulating and challenging activities are listed on the school website in an easily accessed manner. Those activities will support the high quality learning and teaching in the classrooms. Class teachers will ensure that the activities follow on from the everyday learning that happens at school, so that parents and carers will not have to ‘teach’ new concepts. Each week of school closure, weekly tasks will be uploaded to the school website. Each day, teachers will arrange a Teams meeting to encourage interaction and engagement, whilst an end of the day Google form will allow teachers to monitor pupil engagement.

**Expectations and responsibilities of school teaching staff**

* To create remote learning tasks which link to and support classroom learning.
* To ensure tasks are communicated effectively to parents and pupils, through the most effective channels. The school website will be the primary location.
* To communicate with pupils each day using Teams to encourage pupil engagement, and to outline tasks that are to be completed that day.
* To offer feedback where appropriate, with email being the primary method of communication between teacher and parent.
* To monitor pupil engagement daily so issues can be addressed as quickly as possible.
* To ensure that extra care is taken not to over burden pupils with excessive home learning tasks.
* To ensure support is available for pupils who cannot access online tasks so that home learning can still continue.

**Expectations and responsibilities of our learners**

* Pupils should recognise the value of remote learning in supporting classroom learning.
* Pupils should complete home learning tasks to the highest standard possible.
* Pupils should practise and build on what they have learned in school to support their remote learning.
* Pupils should expect and seek out support when needed, and should value the feedback given by teachers.

**Expectations and responsibilities of parents and carers.**

* To engage with website documents in order to support their child.
* To contact the school as soon as possible if problems arise in order to seek support and advice.
* To ensure the daily Google Form is completed.
* To facilitate feedback with the class teacher through email.

**Tips and suggestions for parents and carers.**

* Establish routines and expectations. Church of the Ascension encourages parents and carers to set regular hours for their children’s work. We suggest an hour of maths, an hour of English and an hour of topic work per day is a good starting point. Regular rest breaks are beneficial for all.
* Create an environment where children will learn most of the time. A shared family space is best, not necessarily in a bedroom. Appropriate resources should be available.
* Encourage children to seek feedback for their work by contacting class teachers, with email the preferred method of communication.
* Regularly ‘check-in’ on progress, aiming to start and end the day with clear expectations and reflection time.
* Take an active role in helping your children by sharing the tasks and discussing what needs to be done. Children enjoy the social aspect of learning, with online learning potentially ending that social contact. Parents and carers should not, however, complete the tasks for the children, even when they are struggling.
* Encourage physical activity and exercise.
* Be mindful of your child’s stress or worry. The day to day routines that children are used to may not be present, and children may grow anxious and upset. Discussing issues, encouraging social interaction and promoting health and well-being are necessary techniques.
* Monitor how much time your child is spending online. Keep your child social, but set rules, especially where social media may be concerned.

**Church of the Ascension procedure if a class has to isolate:**

Once a class has been notified to isolate for 10 days then the following procedures will be followed in order to ensure that remote learning can take place:

* Class teacher to collect together documents to be posted on the school website
* Documents to be emailed to Deputy Headteacher who will post the documents to the website
* Paper copies of the tasks made available for anyone who does not have sufficient access to the school website
* Daily Teams meeting procedure outlined and begun straight away
* Class teacher to respond promptly to emails from parents
* Tasks to be reviewed and updated as required

**Church of the Ascension procedure if an individual child has to isolate:**

The same procedure listed above will be followed, with the exception being the tasks will not be available on the school website. Instead, the Deputy Headteacher will email the tasks directly to the parent of the child who is isolating.

**Good examples of tasks / Good resources / weblinks**

Mathletics

Active Learn Primary

Accelerated Reading

Oxford owl for ebooks

White Rose maths tasks / powerpoints

BBC bitesize

Oak Academy

Talk 4 Writing

Twinkl