

# TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Monday 11th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a lovely weekend with your families, and have managed to find some rest and recuperation after such a busy week for you all.

**School is open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers**

Please find attached a letter from Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services in Central Bedfordshire.

The DfE has updated the critical worker guidance to clarify that parents should keep their children at home if they can, and so if your child is accessing a place on site, please can we kindly ask that they only attend on the days you are out at work, and thank you for only sending children into school, when absolutely necessary. If after reading this guidance, you would like to cancel your critical worker place, please email the school office.

Whilst the guidance does not specify a maximum number of children per bubble, we as a school have risk assessed how many spaces each classroom can facilitate safely. Secondly, whilst most staff are on site to lead bubbles, our staffing levels have been reduced due to the virus, and so it will not be possible to open any more bubbles.

I would also like to draw your attention to Central Bedfordshire's guidance, that if schools continue to receive requests for places that exceed numbers stipulated in their risk assessments, then they would need to prioritise vulnerable children before critical workers. I really do hope that this is never the case, as we are committed to supporting all our families through this challenging time, and again thank you for your support and understanding with this very complex situation.

## Meet your new Headteacher

I am really keen to meet the children and look forward to joining all of the weekly class catch ups this week. I am also really keen to meet all of you, and ensure that we are doing everything we can to support you with your child's remote learning. I would like to invite you to a remote meet the new Headteacher meeting on Wednesday 13th January 2021.

Nursery & Reception	Year 1 & 2	Year 3 & 4
4.30 pm	5.00 pm	5.30 pm

Please email [office@toddstg.co.uk](mailto:office@toddstg.co.uk) to register your place on our Zoom call by Tuesday 12th January, 3.30pm. Should you have a specific question, I kindly ask you to provide us with the details in your email, so that we can do our best to answer your query. Invitations with the Meeting ID and Passcode will be emailed to registered attendees on Wednesday 13th January.

The aim of the meeting is just to say hello, and help in any way that we can. We ask that parents and carers turn their microphones off, but keep their cameras on. I will answer the questions that have been previously emailed in.

## Remote Curriculum Offer and Google Classroom

It has been a pleasure to see all the lovely learning taking place at home, via Google Classroom. I have particularly enjoyed seeing the videos and photographs of the children, who all looked very happy.

The following should help to clarify any questions you may have.

### *I am not sure how to use Google Classroom, can anyone help me?*

Of course we can! Please email your year group address, and we will arrange for the most appropriate member of staff to give you a call.

### *Why is the teacher input pre-recorded rather than live?*

We have considered the benefits of both approaches, and believe them both to be really effective methods. We are acutely aware of the issues some families face, which include:

- Access to devices may need to be shared within the family, and so some siblings may be unable to access live lessons at the same time.
- Internet connections can be compromised with multiple live platforms accessed at the same time.
- For those parents working from home, at times they themselves may need to remotely attend scheduled meetings, which could be at the same time as the live lesson schedule.

For these reasons, we have chosen to pre-record the teacher input for each lesson, and hope that this provides more flexibility for families.

*In your video message, you mentioned you have clear expectations for Google Classroom, what are they and what is your timeline for achieving this?*

In line with the DfE's guidance we will provide three hours of remote curriculum for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, and four hours for Year 3 and Year 4.

This week's remote learning pack (W/C 11.1.2021) had already been planned before the DfE announcement on Thursday afternoon. Teachers are having training on recording teacher input, and utilising appropriate material from The Oak Academy. You will find this appearing in your child's Google Classroom and increasing throughout the week.

From next week, (W/C 18.1.2021) you will find the following:

- Work will be scheduled daily.
- Children will have an English lesson, a Maths lesson and a Topic lesson every day.
- Every lesson will have pre-recorded teacher input followed by independent child learning.
- Work will either be typed onto a google document which can be, "Turned in," or your child will be asked to add a photograph.
- Children will be invited to a weekly live class catch up at a scheduled time.
- Children will be able to watch a weekly pre-recorded Collective Worship.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. I am conscious of the increased volume of parent communication that you are receiving from school at the moment, and do anticipate that will reduce, as we find our new normal, once again.

As ever, should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Colette Lamb