

# TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

**Head Teacher:**  
Colette Lamb

**Telephone:**  
01525 872360



**Manor Road  
Toddington  
Bedfordshire  
LU5 6AJ**

email: [office@toddstg.co.uk](mailto:office@toddstg.co.uk)  
[www.toddingtonstgeorge.co.uk](http://www.toddingtonstgeorge.co.uk)

Friday 5th February 2021

## **Parent and Carer Google Form Survey on our Remote Curriculum**

Thank you to those who took the time to complete our google form on our remote curriculum. We are always very open to feedback, as we are passionate about doing our best for our children and their families, and therefore really do rely on the honesty we receive from our parents and carers.

We are really overwhelmed with the huge amount of appreciation parents and carers have shared, recognising the hardworking efforts of all the staff in school. We feel utterly blessed and privileged to have such a supportive parent community - thank you!

We would like to share just a few of the very kind comments we received:

*I honestly think you guys have smashed it and I can't fault anything. Thank you!*

*The daily uploading of work is a lot easier to navigate and work out.*

*I think it's all great, the work set is perfect and achievable.*

*We appreciate how hard everyone is working, thank you.*

84% of responses stated that the amount of work set is correct, with 4% preferring to have more and 11% preferring less.

Please can I reassure you that if there is too much work set, please only select what is right for your child from google classroom. You know your child best. For those preferring more, please do get in touch with the class teacher via the year group emails.

It was also really useful to understand how we can further support families, at this time. Lots of parents may share the same queries, so I would like to share the decision making taking place in school.

*Anything that can be done to provide work with more notice would be appreciated.*

Thank you, and I completely understand. I'd like to reassure you that we prioritise providing as much notice as possible, to support parents in preparing home lessons. For teachers this means planning their weekly overview in advance, then creating home-friendly resources, presentations, google docs and recording or sourcing the teacher input. All of this work is new and additional, as it would not be sufficient for teachers to rely on their usual plans and resources. It might be helpful for me to share that the teachers are doing this preparation alongside teaching the children in school. As a result, the earliest the teachers can upload the learning is by 6pm, before the next teaching day.

*It would help if printed work packs would be available again like the previous lockdown, printer ink & paper come at a cost.*

We fully understand the costs associated with printing, and as our understanding of effective remote learning grows from week to week, we are intentionally reducing the need to print anything off. Unfortunately because of the reasons explained above teachers are unable to provide the learning a week in advance, which is necessary for packs to be collated in advance. Please remember that the packs were created instead of google classroom. In addition, staffing has become incredibly stretched and this time we would not have the capacity for someone to download and print packs. Finally, due to the strains of the virus becoming more transmissible, our risk assessment does not allow us to invite visitors onto site to collect items. We appreciate that this may be an inconvenience for families, but would ask you to get in touch with us, so that we can help you fully utilise google classroom.

*It's really hard to find teacher comments without checking every assignment. Like I said, this isn't a criticism of the school, just a big miss from Google!*

Thank you, and yes we do agree, and we will give feedback to Google. One way to resolve this issue could be to download G.Classroom onto a phone, as you receive push notifications for when work has been uploaded or if there are private teacher comments. It is also the easiest way to upload photographs and videos.

*A workbook/activity book of school work so that they can have a block of time away from the screen.* This is a really helpful idea, thank you so much. We have been exploring how we can plan for non-screen time learning, whilst not interrupting the new routines families have established, particularly for those working from home, who will be attending remote meetings whilst their children are learning. We will have more detail on this after half term, but can assure you that we will provide good notice.

*Parents need more guidance on how to use Google classrooms to its full use*

We have asked parents to get in touch with us if they would like support with google classroom, and that offer will always remain open! We would gladly give you a call or zoom, so please do take us up on it.

### **Healthy Heart and Minds Day : Friday 12th February 2021**

We are really looking forward to expressing our creativity and talents next Friday. We have been exploring different strategies that we can use to keep active and keep our minds healthy. One of the aspects we are aware of is the amount of screen time children are currently engaging in, and therefore have made this day a screen free day. To support parents in being able to plan their work commitments teachers will be publishing a suggested schedule on google classroom today. Children who are in school on this day can come to school in Sports or PE Kit.

### ***Lighting A Spark* connecting our school community**

One of the suggested activities on Healthy Heart and Minds day is to design and create a star that can be displayed across the village, and surrounding areas. We thought it would be really lovely for the children to spot and count the stars when they are out on their daily walk. Most importantly it will serve as a reminder that we are and will always be one community, and although at the moment we can not be together, we will always be connected by lighting our sparks in everyone. More information and examples will be posted on google classroom. We are really excited to see the children express their creative talents.

## *Finding the joy* and celebrating the best bits of lockdown

As you know, we are missing all the children and families, and we are really keen to stay connected by whatever means we can. Whilst lots of the staff are able to enjoy your moments of *joy* via google classroom, we are acutely aware that our children can not see what their friends have been getting up to. Therefore teachers have very kindly offered to create a best bits presentation that we will upload onto our school website. And so, for those at home and attending school, If you would like your child and family to be part of our mini-video, please send in a finding your joy photograph, to your year group email, by Friday 12th February. By doing so you are agreeing to have your gorgeous photograph published on our website.

### **Parent consultations**

We are planning to hold parent consultations via phone again due to the current restrictions. They will take place during the week commencing 1st March 2021. Further details will follow after half term.

### **Weather forecast**

For those in school next week please come prepared for what is set to be a very cold week. In school, we try to get outside as much as possible so please wrap up in hats, scarves and gloves, and if you would like to, an extra jumper or sports hoodie may be worn.

As ever, should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Colette Lamb

Headteacher