

REMOTE LEARNING AT CTK

AN EXPLANATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



We wanted to update you on our current plans for Remote Learning at CTK and explain what we are doing and why.

Current situation:

- Christ the King remains open to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children.
- All other children will learn remotely until at least February half term.
- CTK currently has more than 25% of children attending. We are working with parents to try and reduce the number of children in school in order to support the national effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Keeping the numbers of children in school as low as possible ensures that our teachers can maintain high quality remote learning. We reassure parents that the children in school are receiving exactly the same recorded lessons as those at home and are asking for continued support and patience in bringing the number of children in school down as much as possible.
- CTK wants to support parents and families who are essential to the COVID-19 response and so we will provide school places to all children who need them subject to further changes in government advice.

Aims for remote learning:

- To provide the best quality education for children whether they are at home or in school
- To provide school places to all children who need them
- To support the national drive to reduce the infection rate of COVID-19 by limiting the number of people (staff, pupils and families) on the school sites at any given time.

What the school has to consider:

- Some families have limited or no access to IT and/or broadband.
- Many parents have more than one child and they have to share a single device within the home or may struggle to find a quiet working space for study.
- Some parents are required to work full-time whilst supporting their child with home learning.
- The mental health and wellbeing of our pupils - and parents! We understand the extraordinary pressures many of our parents are facing.
- The need to keep pupils motivated and engaged.
- We understand that many parents have a range of views and expectations. Some parents want more work at home for children and some have noted that there has been too much.
- Schools vary significantly in context. This may mean that what works well in one type of school may not be suitable for other kinds of school.
- It takes considerably longer for teachers to plan and deliver pre-recorded lessons than delivering those lessons in the classroom.

Options:

The options the school considered in designing the remote learning provision are as follows:

- 1.To provide a quality provision of daily recorded lessons created and delivered by the staff who know the children best. With the aim to ensure that your children receive resources, learning and feedback from their own teachers – where possible. The learning will follow, as far as possible, the planned curriculum. This will include voice-over lessons, video lessons and weblinks to videos and other resources.
- 2.To provide a strict timetable of live lessons delivered over the internet for each class and follow the same criteria as Option 1
- 3.To send home worksheets and work books to complete

What we have decided to do at CTK and why:

Pupils' accessibility to our remote program is crucial so we have decided to generate pre-recorded lessons led by our year group teachers. Given that many of our parents are currently working from home, we wanted to provide the most flexible option possible so that parents can choose when their child can access their remote learning.

We will:

- Set meaningful and ambitious work each day in a range of subjects
- Continue to teach all or most of the normal planned curriculum in each year group
- Ensure each year group will continue with sequenced lessons which match their year groups' curricular aims
- Upload work daily to Class Dojo by 9.00am
- Share a daily 'Meet and Greet' video message from your child's class teacher at 9.00am
- Provide a sample timetable to support the planning of your child's routine
- Deliver at least 3 hours of learning for children in KS1 and less for younger children and 4 hours for children in KS2. This will include both recorded teaching of new content, and time for pupils to complete tasks independently.
- Implement a system for checking, daily, whether pupils are engaging with their work and work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern
- Acknowledge every piece of work through approval and 'likes' and provide at least 2 written comments per week on work submitted by the pupils
- Maintain regular communication with our families using Class Dojo and fortnightly phone calls to monitor pupil motivation and seek feedback from parents regarding the pitch, challenges and quantity of remote learning so that future sessions can be adapted accordingly
- Provide resources to support with pupil's mental health and wellbeing and online safety. Please view these resources on our website by clicking [here](#).
- Provide information on where you can access quality online reading books for your child and online phonics support if you would like to practise the sounds being taught by your child's teacher
- Provide devices for those children who need them. We have distributed a number of laptops this term. Should your child not have appropriate access to a suitable device, please contact the school office: 0116 2857261.
- Regularly review, develop and improve our home learning provision according to the needs of our pupils and families. Miss Hurren and Ms Knight are our Remote Curriculum Leads.

During the period of lockdown all pupils, including those who may be self isolating, will follow the same programme of remote education. Once all children return to school, the school will continue to provide home learning resources for those who are self isolating via the [Blended Learning Maps](#) on the school website. These resources will continue to follow the mapped out curriculum for their year group.

Pupils with additional needs:

CTK provides support for pupils with additional needs who are not able to access the remote learning materials for their year group.

- All pupils with Education and Health Care (EHC) plans have been invited to attend school where they will be able to access a curriculum tailored to their specific targets. Any EHC pupils who do not attend school are provided with a range of weekly Busy Bag resources containing English and Maths activities specific to their targets. Class Teachers and Learning Support Assistants make contact via telephone with these families twice weekly to monitor engagement and assess progress.
- The CTK FIT Team put together a weekly Supplementary Learning Map with weblinks for children working outside of their year group curriculum which can be found in the [Remote Learning](#) section on our school website. The learning map provides pupils with links to activities in every subject area. There are a range of tasks and levels available so that parents can find suitable activities for their child. These resources can be used to supplement the daily content uploaded to Class Dojo by their teacher each day.
- Where pupils find certain aspects of the remote curriculum challenging, we advise parents to contact their child's class teacher via Class Dojo and adjustments will be made to enable their child to access the remote education.

How you can help your child at home:

- Take an active interest in your child's learning and support when they need a helping hand. Here are some ideas:
 - Ask them questions
 - Get them to explain their learning to you
 - Check in on your child's written work as often as you can
 - Praise and reward them when they do well
 - Don't be afraid to learn alongside them!
- Establish a daily schedule and routine:
 - Get up and go to bed at the same time each day
 - Have a list of tasks on the wall and tick them off with your child
 - Have regular meal times
 - Have regular breaks
 - Make time to be active - children are used to regular play at lunch and break times
 - The school will provide a suggested timetable for you to follow
- Ensure that they have a quiet space and surface to work.
- Provide basic handwriting implements: pencil, paper, ruler, coloured pencils.
- Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home and monitor your child's communication and online activity.
- Set age appropriate parental controls and privacy restrictions on all electronic devices.

- Encourage regular screen breaks and physical activity away from devices:
- Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health – talk to them about how they are feeling.
- Read with your child for at least 15 minutes a day. If your child is a reluctant reader, then read out loud with them, taking turns. See [The Top 10 Tips to Encourage Children to Read](#) on our website. Don't forget to record the books you read in your child's Reading Record Book.
- Keep in touch with your child's class teacher across Class Dojo.
- Older siblings can help with younger siblings.

Communication:

- The primary method of communication with parents and pupils will be across [Class Dojo](#).
- All work will be submitted daily across Class Dojo.
- Regular feedback from the year group team on pupil's work will be provided.
- For those children who are not in school, each family will receive a welfare call at least once every two weeks from the class teacher.
- The year group team will post regularly on the Class Story section of Class Dojo.
- All parents will continue to receive the weekly newsletter.
- Assemblies and Star of Week awards will be live streamed to all pupils, at home and in school every Wednesday and Friday morning to maintain the sense of community. Links will be sent to parents on Class Dojo.
- A remote workshop to help parents support their pupils with remote learning will be scheduled during Lent 1 and a recording will be uploaded to the [school website](#).
- Remote parent's evening is scheduled for the end of February. All parents will have the opportunity to meet virtually with their child's class teacher.

Conclusion:

We know that some parents will have preferred CTK to stream live lessons immediately. Other schools have taken this decision and we understand that there are benefits to live interaction between teachers and children. We are conducting a trial of live sessions over the next few weeks and will roll this out to all children if the trial is successful.

CTK has decided, as explained above, to begin with pre-recorded lessons to ensure that all children receive the same standard of learning regardless of their access to devices or the internet. This has been based on parental feedback.

Other resources are available for parents who feel that their children can undertake more learning opportunities. Please view these resources in the [Remote Learning](#) section on our school website.