



St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have amended the days your child attends school to reflect your work patterns, keeping your children at home if there is someone to supervise them. The guidance clearly sets out that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

As I mentioned in my letter sent home on the 7th January, we have and will continue to keep our Remote Learning under review; as we have done since last year to continuously improve the already high-quality provision for our children and families.

We understand that these continue to be challenging times for schools and families and are grateful to the many families who have shared their positive views and appreciation for our Remote Learning on the VLE (during the current National Lockdown and previously). We also appreciate everything that you are doing at home and the crucial work of Critical Workers.

We understand that home learning may be challenging for some families particularly if you have other children at home or are also working from home. Please remember that the VLE Remote Learning is there to support you; we work hard at school to ensure that it is of a high standard for our children (and carefully review it in line with new guidance and developments). We know you work hard at home to support your child's learning and well-being and want to ensure you that although we are not seeing all of our families in school; we are still here to support you. Our SENCO Mrs Liggins is available through senco@staugustine.medway.sch.uk if you have any questions regarding your child's SEN provision or you would like to access mental health/well-being support or contact the school nurse. As I have shared previously, if you need support or are having any difficulties please get in touch, we want to help.

As a school we listen to and welcome parent and carer feedback, the communication received demonstrates a variety of views towards the 'Live lessons' aspect of Remote Learning; some parents and carers welcome the live lessons offer and others prefer fewer or no 'Live Lessons'; each families view is relevant to their individual circumstances; we listen to all views. Where it was possible and helpful to parents; we made immediate amendments to the already high quality VLE Remote Learning and will continue to amend and review to support our children.

Government Guidance was updated on the 8th January and included Remote Learning guidance:

The remote education provided should be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school and will include both recorded or live direct teaching time, and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. The amount of remote education provided should be, as a minimum:



- Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
- Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day

Those hours include both direct teaching and time for pupils to complete tasks or assignments independently.

Online video lessons do not necessarily need to be recorded by teaching staff at the school: Oak National Academy lessons, for example, can be provided in lieu of school led video content.

This week we have continued to provide Live Lessons and have experienced some success and of course some 'technical difficulties'; thank you to the parents and carers for your support and patience and also for letting us know when it has gone well. From Monday, there will be two Live lessons per day (if not already the case) and additional 'Class Reading/Story time' sessions scheduled into the week via Microsoft Teams. We want to encourage our children to read more at home but also give them an additional opportunity to enjoy a book together as a class with their Teacher reading.

Live Lessons are one example of our VLE Remote Learning provision and is part of the wider Remote Learning on the VLE which is carefully planned against the curriculum. Although attendance at the Live Lessons is encouraged, teachers have and will continue to provide an alternative to the Live lesson if on occasion your child is unable to attend; this may be provided by Oak Academy resources.

Please look at the VLE every morning as the 'Day to Day' learning may be updated with new learning as the week goes on in reference to the learning outcomes and feedback the teachers receive (via email), including their assessment of your child's progress to inform their next steps in planning. Our Remote Learning also contains links to virtual assemblies, class prayers and our subscriptions to Mathletics, Phonics Play and Timetables Rockstars.

The Remote learning provided daily for the children at home is the same as the learning for the children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable children in school. Please email your child's teacher with their learning outcomes and feedback as this is our system for checking, daily, whether children are engaging with their work, and work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern. Ideally, we would receive the children's work daily; although we understand that all families have individual circumstances and therefore we ask that you communicate with your child's teacher to agree a system that is both informative regarding assessment and supportive for families.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Prestidge
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

