

Cringleford CE VA Primary School

Dragonfly Lane
Cringleford
Norwich
Norfolk
NR4 7JR

Telephone: 01603 454946
Email: office@cringleford.norfolk.sch.uk
Website: www.cringleford.norfolk.sch.uk



Headteacher – Mr N Henery

16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Blended learning at Cringleford CE VA Primary School

This information is to give parents and carers some important information about blended learning for their child as and when it is required. We have used the term 'blended learning' as it often describes a mixture of face to face learning and e-learning and this is the approach we would like to take if a child or group of children had to self-isolate for a period of time.

To plan ahead to cope with all eventualities, we have sent out details of logins and passwords for Teams and Tapestry. We have encouraged all pupils in Years 2-6 to do a short assignment so we know whether or not a family is having difficulties setting up Teams. We have also talked to the children about how to use Teams in a safe way and teachers have talked to children about a Teams agreement – a copy of which has been attached.

We have also bought some catch up resources from a well-known company (CGP) and will be sending these, and some exercise books, home by the start of the half term holiday. This comprises of a set of books covering some core skills typical for each year group. These books should only be used as directed by class teachers. For example, if a class had to self-isolate for two weeks, the class teacher might add to the weekly plan the task of completing a particular reading comprehension or mental maths task. Please keep the pack in a safe place and be prepared to bring it back to school when everything returns to normal. Some of the workbooks might also be used for homework tasks.

What would happen if just a single child is absent because they are awaiting a Covid-19 test result?

At the moment we are fortunate that only a small minority of pupils have had to self-isolate. We have continued what we did during the spring and summer terms – uploading home learning work onto the school website (<https://www.cringleford.norfolk.sch.uk/>) and then clicking on the green Children / Home Learning tab on the front page and then clicking on Class blogs. We upload a weekly plan (by Monday morning at 9 a.m.) which follows, as much as possible, what the rest of the class is learning that week.

When the class teachers are aware of a child self-isolating, they will make sure that enough work is sent home and will try to make opportunities for that child to be able to take part remotely in one or two class activities e.g. joining in with the reading of a story or listening in to a lesson. This will be done via Teams (Years 2-6) or Tapestry (Reception and Year 1).

If your child has SEN (special educational needs), teachers will scaffold or set differentiated work for home learning. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Depending on the age of the child, he/she will be able to send in work and communicate with the class teacher through use of the class email address e.g eagles@cringleford.norfolk.sch.uk or via Tapestry. Teachers will respond to messages asap, but please remember that they will be in school teaching and will respond when they are able to do so. Home learning assignments for pupils in Years 2-6 will increasingly be set via Teams. In addition, your child will receive contact once every three days by someone at school – either by phone or Teams.

If your child is ill (Covid-19 related or otherwise) we would not expect work to be completed until he / she was well enough.

What would happen if a whole class or year group bubble has to self-isolate or if there was another 'lockdown' with total school closure?

There will be a mixture of online learning and pen and paper tasks. There would be a mixture of 'live' and recorded lessons – some of which would be delivered by one of the year group teachers, and some through learning platforms, such as BBC Learning / Bitesize, Oak Academy or White Rose Maths.

Oak Academy's online classroom has 10,000 video lessons created by teachers which are available for free on www.thenational.academy. Oak Academy is backed by the Department for Education. You can use Oak's online classroom on any device – you don't need to log in or remember a password. Each of the lessons is delivered by a trained teacher, over a pre-recorded video. It is clear at the start of each session any basic materials the children might need, such as pens, paper etc. The lessons are designed to need minimal supervision, although this will depend on the age of your child.

For each home learning day the teachers will upload a timetable of learning on the class blog section of the website – this is because it is helpful to children to maintain a daily routine when learning at home.

Every day would include:

Some virtual or recorded teacher inputs via Teams or Tapestry to state the timetable for the day and provide both teaching input for key tasks and reviewing the day's learning. The frequency and duration of any 'live' input will depend on a range of factors, including the age of the children and whether there are internet / broadband issues to contend with. For all 'live' sessions, children would be expected to be dressed ready to learn.

Each week of remote learning would include:

- A broad range of subjects
- Assembly times

Hopefully, the school will not be in a position where one of our teachers or a close family member became poorly. However, if that was the case, please be aware that this may affect the way that remote learning could be delivered. For this reason, year group teachers will be planning and working as a team and one of the other year group teachers might have to take the lead with 'live' or recorded input sessions.

It is worth emphasizing that the planning of teaching and learning is complex at the best of times, particularly when carried out remotely. We will work hard to get this as right as possible for children, families and staff, but we are well aware from our previous experience of remote learning, that there are a number of reasons why things can go wrong – internet connections, multiple family members trying to access resources, children behaving differently at home to school to name just a few! Home learning can be a huge burden for families and we will try to support your children to manage tasks as independently as possible.

Home / remote learning is equally challenging for teaching staff. The sequence of planning and learning is complex and remote learning makes it much harder for teachers to be able to differentiate or be able to adjust to different ability levels through skilled questioning etc. From our experience of using Teams for our Celebration Assemblies, and no doubt from some of your own experiences with Zoom or other online platforms, there are a number of potential issues with connectivity. However, we are all up for the challenge and let us all remember to be kind to each other!

How can you implement remote learning in your home?

- Don't try to do too much. Please remember that you know your child best. During a stressful time nationally, social emotional mental health is a key priority for everyone.
- Try to keep to a routine
- Build in plenty of breaks and make sure your child drinks lots of water.
- Be kind to yourself. We are all adjusting to a new way of living. Many people are trying to balance the children's needs to continue their education whilst also still working from home.

Finally, please do not think that sending this letter out today means that the school has some sort of inside information about a further lockdown or about schools having to close for a week after the half term holiday. We know nothing more than you do, but we just want to be as prepared as we can be for all eventualities.

Yours faithfully

N. Henery

Mr N. Henery
Headteacher

