



THE HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
CROOKHAMS WELWYN GARDEN CITY HERTS AL7 1PG
Tel: 01707 375518



www.holyfamily.herts.sch.uk admin@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk

Remote Learning Update

12th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank those parents that have taken the time to email school with many positive comments about the remote learning we are currently providing. Your feedback has given a boost to our teachers who continue to face the challenges remote learning presents on a daily basis. I would also like to acknowledge your efforts to support your children’s learning at home, I understand that it is not an easy task and also presents you with many challenges, especially as many of you juggle your own working commitments. There is a lot of information in this letter and advice to support your child’s learning experience at home.

Our teachers are following the same learning sequences that were planned for this half term in each subject and therefore the learning is the same for the children as they would have received in face-to-face teaching, albeit with the limitations presented when learning remotely.

Striking the right balance for remote learning is difficult. Some parents would like more, some less and some are happy with the amount currently being received. Therefore, we turn to government guidance to support our remote learning offer. A summary of this guidance and some advice for parents is given below. There is different advice for each phase/year group which is age appropriate.

Year group	Guidance and advice
5/6	<p>The guidance is up to 4 hours remote learning per day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of this age group should be fairly independent in their learning and should now be familiar with Google Classrooms, the routines of the day and the teacher’s expectations. • Four lessons per day will be set and you should encourage your child to break these lessons up into hour chunks throughout the day, your child may need guidance with this. Teachers have shared an advised weekly timetable; however this is only a suggestion and you and your child must organise your day in a way that suits you and your family’s needs. • Teachers are available online for the school day for children to contact for support with their learning. Please be patient in your expectations of a response as there can often be a large number of queries. • Where possible it is advisable to complete work within the ‘school day’ but extra time



‘As a family we live, love, learn and celebrate with Jesus.’



	<p>to submit work may be possible in agreement with the teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children should be able to submit their own work independently. Please check that your child has submitted all the work requested, teachers will monitor this daily.
3/4	<p>The guidance is up to 4 remote hours learning per day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of this age group should now be able to login to Google Classroom independently and access the work for the day. They should be becoming more familiar with the routines of the day and teacher expectations. • Three to four lessons per day will be set and you should support your child to organise their learning day each morning. Teachers have shared an advised weekly timetable, however this is only a suggestion and you and your child must organise your day in a way that suits you and your family's needs. • Teachers are available online for the school day for children to contact for support with their learning. Please be patient in your expectations of a response as there can often be a large number of queries. • Where possible it is advisable to complete work within the 'school day' but extra time to submit work may be possible in agreement with the teacher. • Your child may need support to submit their work at the end of each school day. Tips on how to scan work and email directly are on the school website under 'Google Classroom'. Please check that your child has submitted all the work requested, teachers will monitor this daily.
1/2	<p>The guidance is up to 3 hours of remote learning per day – this may be slightly less for Year 1 children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children of this age will need an adult to support them with their learning and therefore you should organise your day in a way which allows you to do this. • A daily phonics/English lesson will be set, alongside maths, topic/RE and reading time. Teachers will be available online for the school day to support with learning. Please be patient in your expectations of a response as there can often be a large number of queries. • Ensure you help your child to register at the beginning of the day and join connect time at the end of the day. There is a suggested timetable for the day, but this can be adapted to suit your needs. • Please submit your child's work at the end of each day. Tips on how to scan work and email directly are on the school website under 'Google Classroom'. Please ensure that you have submitted all the work requested, teachers will monitor this daily.
EY	<p>The guidance is up to 3 hours per day– less for younger children (somewhere between 2-3 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please register your child's attendance each morning and join connect time at the end of the day. • A daily phonics session will be set and maths/English/topic. Suggestions for games and structured play will also be shared. Please structure your day to fit in with your other commitments as some of you will have older children that also need support. • Story time will be provided daily, and this can be used at any time of the day – it may be useful as part of the bedtime routine. • Please submit photographs of your child's learning to your class teacher as required.

Some further advice about how to schedule your day and encourage positive learning behaviours can be found on the links below.

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/videos/EEF Supporting daily routines during school closures.mp4](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/videos/EEF_Supporting_daily_routines_during_school_closures.mp4)

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for parents/Supporting home learning routines - Planning the day.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Supporting_home_learning_routines_-_Planning_the_day.pdf)

<https://www.hertsforlearning.co.uk/blog/supporting-positive-learning-behaviours-home>

Reading at home

Teachers will use our Elibrary to give reading books to all children that access the school reading scheme. For those older children no longer on the school reading scheme teachers will give appropriate book recommendations. Please make use of the local library offer that was emailed earlier today.

Year group	Books
YR	2-3 per week
KS1, Y3 and Y4 children on the school reading scheme (Y4 children that are no longer on the school reading scheme will still have access to books should they wish to read them for pleasure)	4 per week

Tips to support reading at home

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for schools/7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_schools/7_Top_Tips_to_Support_Reading_at_Home.pdf)

Tips to support reading at home (KS2)

[https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19 Resources/Resources for schools/7 top tips to support reading at home %E2%80%93 for Key Stage 2.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_schools/7_top_tips_to_support_reading_at_home_%E2%80%93_for_Key_Stage_2.pdf)

Provision for those children with identified SEN

Mrs Bell has been in contact with all families where their child has an identified SEN and require school support. She has adapted each child's CCP and shared them with families and teachers will be setting work appropriate to each child's needs and in accordance to their CCP. Mrs Bell will be in regular contact as will the class teacher. Should you require a phone call with the class teacher please email them to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Feedback on remote learning

As stated in the guidance above, teachers are available online throughout the school day to offer feedback and support as they would in a class situation.

On a more formal basis **KS1 and KS2** children can expect feedback on specific work as follows (this may vary slightly for Y1):

English x2 pieces of work per week

Maths x 2 pieces of work per week

Topic work x 1 piece of work per week

All submitted work will be recognised by the teacher.

Early Years – teachers will respond to work/photos with positive and encouraging comments where they feel it is appropriate.

Posting work

Following on from feedback, all class teachers will now post work for the day the evening before to allow parents the time to prepare for the day ahead

Top tips

We will continue to update the 'Google Classroom' section of the school website with tips to support remote learning regularly. Please ensure you check this page regularly. Today there has been a video uploaded to support the submission of work.

Going forward

As a staff team we meet each week to review our remote learning offer, to share ideas and discuss what is working well with each other. Each teacher is committed to developing their skills and enhance the remote learning experience for your children on this journey. This is a learning curve for all our teachers and for you at home supporting your children on a daily basis.

Live lessons

Whilst there is no evidence that live lessons are a more effective teaching tool than recorded lessons and videos or that they have a greater impact on learning outcomes, we do understand that they can promote engagement with remote learning. I will be sending out a remote learning survey later this week to gain some school wide feedback on remote learning in general and will be asking parents about their live lesson preferences.

Year 5 and year 6 children will begin to use Google Meet to gather at the end of the day for Connect Time towards the end of this week. Miss Flynn and Miss Lingwood will be in contact with Y5/Y6 parents regarding expectations and protocols for this tomorrow. If this proves successful with our older children, we will expand this to lower KS2 in the first instance.

Critical workers

Our critical worker places are full on most days. Unless you have already requested a place in the critical worker group it is unlikely we will be able to accommodate any further requests, particularly for our younger children. The message from government was a strong one over the weekend, even if you are a critical worker and can keep your child at home you should. We are accommodating changing working patterns at the moment but may need to request evidence of working patterns should this become difficult to manage.

Lines of communication

Your first point of contact should always be your child's class teacher. If your child has an identified SEN and you wish to contact Mrs Bell please do so via email SENDSCO@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk.

If you require further support please contact your child's phase leader or our deputy head, Miss Flynn, via the admin email – details below. If you require a phone conversation with either the class teacher or phase leader please arrange this via email.

If you feel that your queries have still not been answered to your satisfaction, please contact Mrs Linnane via the admin email address.

EY Phase leader	Mrs Halawa
KS1 Phase leader	Miss Clifford
KS2 Phase leader and Deputy Head Teacher	Miss Flynn

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy letter. The key to working together successfully is communication and I hope that you feel as well informed as you can be at this time.

Kind regards
Mrs Katie Linnane
Head Teacher