

HOME LEARNING POLICY – SEPTEMBER 2020

OVERVIEW

The covid-19 pandemic and school closure in March 2020, has resulted in large numbers of children being absent from school for a significant period of time. Due to the prevalence of Covid-19 within the community, there is a high probability that children will have periods where they must continue to study from home. At St. Philip's, we have this policy to ensure that the impact on the children, of any future closure, is limited and that children continue to receive continuity in their education.

AIMS

We can never recreate the approaches to learning in the classroom. However, we can ensure that we adopt an approach to remote learning which achieves the best outcomes for our children.

Our aim is to ensure a continuity of education for the children when they are unable to attend school during any periods of self-isolation or quarantine. This policy is adaptable to many different situations and scenarios relating to the closure of school/bubbles. The key principles of the policy are:

- Access to High Quality Resources
- Oversight and Accountability
- Support and Guidance
- Clear and Frequent Communication

Successful outcomes are only achieved through a close working partnership between home and school. Below, we outline the part we all need to play to help deliver the aims of this policy.

Quality of Resources

School - Teachers will prepare carefully planned and sequenced lessons of work in line with National curriculum expectations. Children will work in their exercise books and will continue their learning from where they left off in school. When the children return to school, these lessons will not be revisited.

Home – We need parents to ensure that the necessary time is given for these lessons to be completed to a high standard. It is important that all children are at the same stage in a topic/unit when they return to school

Oversight and Accountability

School – Teachers will regularly check on the work being completed to ensure that pupils are producing a consistently high standard of work.

We will hold the children accountable for the quality of the work they have produced. We want children to be self-motivated and ensure that they produce work to the best of their ability.

When the children return to school, teachers will review the work completed at home. If required, we will reserve the right to ask children to repeat/complete aspects of their work, in their own time, if we feel this is necessary.

Home – Support the school in the judgements that we make. Feedback *is not* intended to be a judgement on a family, who are doing their best to juggle the demands of work whilst supporting home learning. As children get older, it will be beneficial if they learn to accept greater responsibility for the work they have produced.

Support and Guidance

School - We will keep in regular contact with the children/parents. We will use virtual meetings to explain tasks/set work and also review outcomes. We will supplement these with forums/chats where children can share any concerns or seek clarity.

Home – We need families to facilitate an environment where learning can take place. Even with virtual technology, it is impossible for a teacher to maintain constant oversight of the work taking place at home. We need the support of our families and work together towards a shared goal.

Communication

School – We will keep families updated throughout any school/bubble closure. This will be via text message or email. The school email system will be used to contact parents. Any questions relating to a child's work, can be addressed through the Google Classroom chats. Any specific or private concerns that parents may have, need to go through: stphilips.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk or 0161 792 4595 and not the personal email of staff. The office will ensure that messages are passed on promptly and ask the class teacher to contact you.

Home – Please inform us of any concerns or issues you may have. If your child is unwell, this must be reported as an absence through the school office. They will then be excused from the work that day. If there are any barriers to supporting home learning, please let us know and a solution will be found.

WHEN WILL THIS POLICY BE FOLLOWED?

This policy will be followed in the following scenarios:

1. Closure of a 'Bubble'

Following government guidance, pupils and staff will continue to work in 'bubbles' during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the event of a either a child or adult testing positive for Covid-19, a bubble will close and its related pupils and staff with self-isolate for 14 days. Home learning will begin on the day one of this isolation period. If day one of the isolation period falls on a weekend, school holiday or bank holiday then home learning will commence on the first available day that the children should be in school.

2. An Individual Pupil Is Required To Self-Isolate

There may be occasions where an individual pupil is unable to attend school due to a direction to isolate. This may follow instruction from 'NHS Track and Trace' or be due to a family member who has tested positive for Covid-19, or is showing symptoms.

This policy will be adaptable to the following situations, where a separate approach will be followed:

- 1. When a child is off school ill and waiting for a test/test result or
When a child is well, but waiting for a test/test result for a family member.**
- 2. When a child is required to quarantine, following travel abroad, at a time when the government advises against all unnecessary travel or when the country in question is subject to quarantine arrangements at the point of travel.**

We recognise the disruption caused to a child's education by such events, but it is difficult for the teacher to interact in the same way, whilst continuing to teach a class within school.

In the scenarios listed above, where school is unable to provide the level of support you may require, all families will have access to a shared document drive which can be accessed through the Google Classroom. Teachers will direct the children/parents to the appropriate activities in both English and Mathematics.

IMPLEMENTATION

If there is a need to close a class/year group bubble/s, parents will be informed and the following will take place:

Children will leave school with:

- All necessary exercise books.
- Their planner.
- Several school reading books / or ideally a class reader so all pupils have the same book.
- A Chromebook/laptop, if required (please see below).

Parents of the isolating pupils will receive an email containing an invite to a virtual meeting to be held on 'Zoom or Microsoft Teams', between the pupils and their teacher, **on the evening** that the bubble closed. Parents are encouraged to accompany their child, if they feel this would support their child's understanding of the meeting. Within the meeting, the teacher will clarify the following:

- How to access the weekly planning (which will continue to be presented in PowerPoint)
- Details about the work being set and how this is to be recorded.
- Clarify lines of communication, including email and Google Classroom.
- The date and time of the next meeting/s to be held between the teacher and the pupils

Daily Pieces of Work

We do not underestimate the impact that school closure has on a families. We recognise the challenges around childcare and know that arrangements will have to be organised at very short notice. We will never be able to develop an approach which suits every unique situation. However,

we must aim to produce a policy and an approach to work which ensures consistency for the children.

What is outlined below, may exceed what some families feel they are able to provide, whilst not being enough for others. As a school, we have worked incredibly hard to achieve, what we feel, is the necessary balance.

We recognise that families will have to build lessons around the challenges of childcare arrangements. When setting work, we have to be realistic about what can be achieved, but recognise that every situation will be different. However, we have to ensure that we cover all aspects of the curriculum each year, therefore we must set expectations of what must be completed at home. These are a daily:

- English lesson
- Mathematics lesson
- A reading/phonics lesson/task
- An additional lesson of either science, humanities or religion.

All lessons should be completed within pupils' exercise books and be dated, contain a success criteria and meet the usual school expectations of handwriting and presentation. This will all be explained by the teacher before hand. We also encourage parents to initial each piece, and for the children to self-edit as they would normally do within class.

Virtual Meetings

The teacher will host separate meetings throughout the week to support the learning taking place at home, review progress and explain the next steps. These will be:

- Virtual meeting on Day 1 to explain tasks
- Virtual meeting on Day 3 to check on progress and explain forthcoming work.
- Virtual meeting on Day 5 to review outcomes for the week.
- Repeat of these meetings in week 2

Google Classroom (Y1 – Y6)

We will encourage all parents to set up a google account and join their child's virtual classroom. This will allow older children (KS2) to seek support/ask questions to their teacher for anything relating to their work. For younger children (Y1 and Y2) parents will be able to ask questions and get a swift response. The instructions of how to join the classroom as are follows:

Please set your child up with a Gmail email address at www.mail.google.com. This takes only two minutes to complete. Please ensure that their username is your child's full name i.e. DAVE JONES so that your child is identifiable within the GOOGLE CLASSROOM. Only members of your child's class and their teachers will have access to the classroom.

Once your child has an email account set-up, please follow the instructions below to join the GOOGLE CLASSROOM.

1. Go to www.classroom.google.com and click SIGN IN. Sign in with your child's Google Account. For example: dave.jones@gmail.com.
2. At the top, click **Add. Join class**.

3. Enter the **class** code your child's class teacher will give you and click **Join**. A **class** code consists of 6 or 7 letters or numbers.

Nursery and Reception

The nature of the curriculum differs greatly for Nursery and Reception. Therefore, we will use the newly purchased 'Tapestry' app to communicate with families and share tasks. Foundation Stage staff will be in contact with parents about this app.

POSSIBLE CHALLENGES/SCENARIOS, WHICH COULD AFFECT THE SUPPORT OF HOMELEARNING

1. The Class Teacher becomes unwell

In this circumstance, the Headteacher will direct an alternative member of staff to manage home-learning. We will ensure that parents receive the necessary resources and receive the support they require. We will do all we can to maintain the dialogue within Google classroom and via virtual meetings, but if resources become stretched still further, we will give priority to paper-based approaches above virtual meetings/chats.

2. A Pupil is/becomes unwell during an isolation period

If a child is unwell, this needs to be reported to the office in the normal way, regardless as to whether they are working from home or school. An unwell pupil is not expected to complete home learning. When a parent feels that their child is fit enough to resume work, they must then inform the school once again.

3. A child is isolating but the rest of the class remains in school.

We will do all we can to support such children in the ways outlined above. However, because the teacher is teaching full time, it will not always be possible to respond as swiftly to questions/ concerns. We will do all we can to provide access to the best resources possible.

CHROMEBOOK LOAN SCHEME / PAPER PACK

The vast majority of parents have indicated to school that they have access to an electronic device, which allows a pupil to view or access the given daily lesson objectives or participate in *Google Classroom*. This may be a laptop, PC, tablet or a mobile telephone etc. However, if a family have indicated to school that they do not have access to any electronic device at home, then they may loan a Chromebook for the duration of the isolation period. Please contact the Headteacher on the first day of an isolation period if a loan is required.

If a family do not have the option to print given worksheets (only provided for certain tasks) then they should inform the class teacher on day one of the isolation period and arrange to collect a paper pack version of the pupils' work set. This must be collected from the school office on the first day of the isolation and subsequently on a weekly basis after that point.

CONCLUSION

This policy will adapt and change as new resources/technology becomes available. However, the core aims will remain the same. We are determined to ensure that all pupils cover the entire curriculum

content. We understand the pressures on family caused by the closure of bubbles/school, but have a legal duty to enforce the 14-day quarantine rule if a child/adult tests positive for covid-19. We are fortunate to enjoy the support of our families, and hope that this policy matches the aspirations they have for their child's education. In these unprecedented times, I hope we can continue to work together to give the children the very best start to the education.

Full Bubble Closure

Positive Covid-19 Test and Confirmed Closure of Class Bubble Communicated to Families

Children collect:
Exercise Books
Reading Books
Planners
Equipment

Children are collected from school
Parents refer to 'Home Learning Policy' and will be contacted by email with all necessary details

Parents and Children are invited to a virtual meeting with the teacher, Headteacher/Deputy Head

Weekly Overview

DAY 1

Planning and resources on Google Classroom or via Email

English

Mathematics

Science

Reading or Phonics

DAY 2

Log-in to Google Classroom

English

Mathematics

Humanities

Reading or Phonics

DAY 3

Log-in to Google Classroom

English

Mathematics

Religion

Reading or Phonics

DAY 4

Log-in to Google Classroom

English

Mathematics

Flexible

Reading or Phonics

DAY 5

Log-in to Google Classroom

English

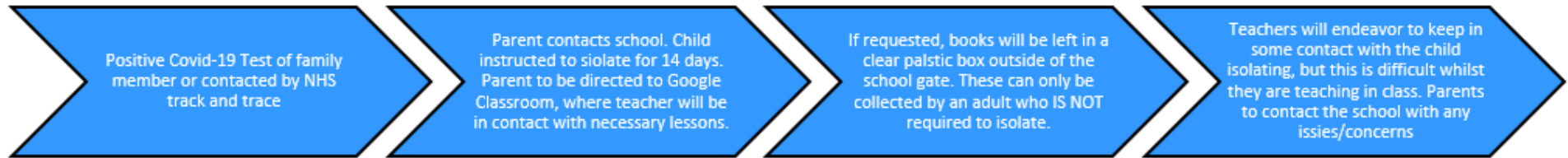
Mathematics

Flexible

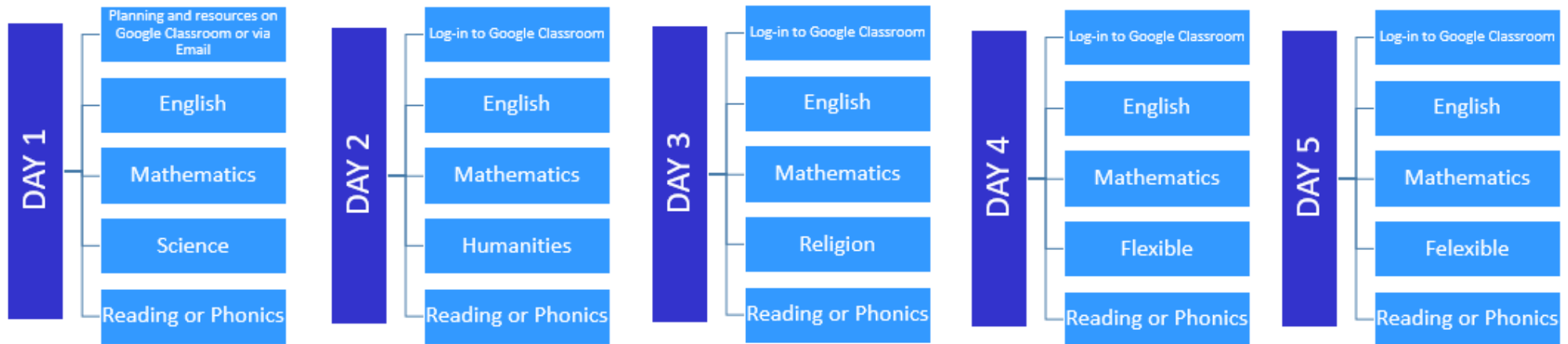
Reading or Phonics

Teacher will remain contactable throughout via Google Classroom or via the school office (Phone or Email shown above)
Teachers may decide to lead additional small group virtual meetings with children, or remain in telephone contact where needed.

Individual 14 Day Isolation



Weekly Overview



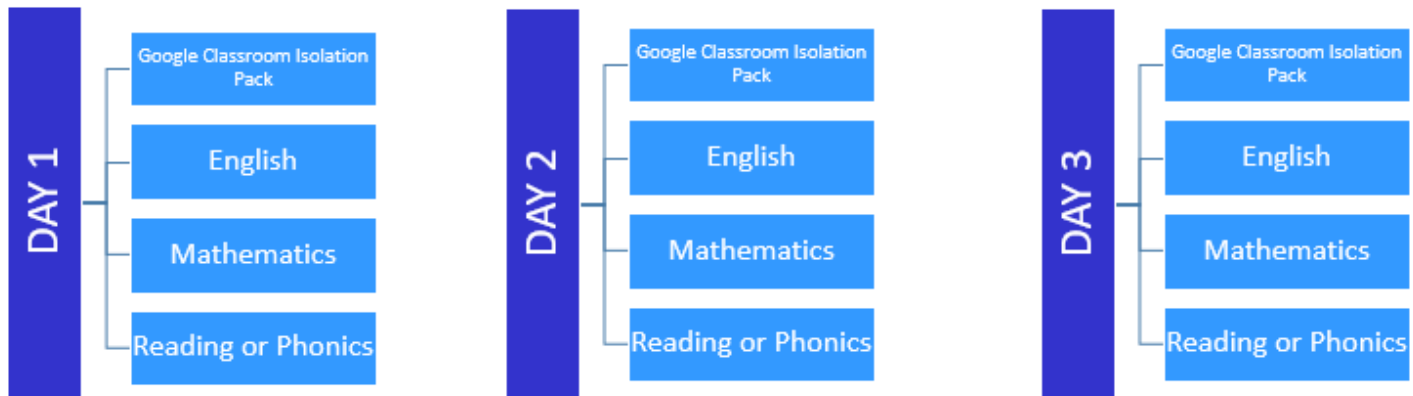
Teacher will remain contactable throughout via Google Classroom or via the school office (Phone or Email shown above). Please remember that the teacher will have full class responsibility and it may take time for them to respond to any queries.

Individual Short –Term Isolation (e.g. awaiting test/result)

Contact the school office and provide details. They will advise families what is required.

Parents will be directed to an isolation pack of work in the 'Classwork' section of Google Classroom.

Weekly Overview



Please keep the office informed of any updates and let us know if you are experiencing any problems accessing resources.