

15.01.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Remote learning during COVID school closure

We are now at the end of the second week of home learning. We would like to congratulate you on getting into a routine and adapting to these changes. We understand that each family has their own unique circumstances that means they are juggling various commitments but your dedication towards supporting your child's continued education is amazing. Thank you to every parent and family member who is supporting their child continue with their education. As we are now in a routine of home or remote learning we thought we'd check that every family is clear of the expectations during this time.

The Government have given schools very clear expectations of remote learning that we need to deliver but more importantly, remote learning has been set to ensure your child does not fall behind.

Google Classroom

Every child has access to a Google Classroom. In the Google Classroom, Teachers and Teaching Assistants are delivering live sessions throughout the day, replicating learning that children receive when school is open. Children access live sessions and will also be given some independent tasks. Registers are taken of children who attend live sessions. Independent tasks are 'handed in' through the Google Classroom and staff then feedback to children about their learning. Staff are available during the independent tasks, so that if children are 'stuck' they can pop back into the session and ask an adult for additional advice and support. Feedback to children is quick and effective through Google Classroom. Google Classroom is the most effective way of accessing learning during school closure as children have direct access to the teachers. Another really important feature of the Google Classroom is that your child gets to see their friends, most people join the live sessions using cameras on their devices or web cams. We currently have around 75% of families opting to access learning via Google Classroom. Children are expected to attend all live sessions and complete all tasks wherever possible. If your child is unable to attend a lesson please do continue to communicate this with the school office. All live sessions are recorded so that children can re-watch or watch at a later date the session with the teacher so that they can complete their learning.

Paper Learning Packs

We understand that Google Classroom causes difficulties for some families and for this reason a paper pack of learning is produced each week to replicate the learning that is on the Google Classroom. These are placed in the school office on a Monday morning. We are very aware of the Government guidelines regarding staying at home, so families who are opting to learn on paper need to incorporate a trip to the

school office with their daily exercise once a week to return completed learning and collect the next pack. When you come into the office, you will see a table with a basket to return learning and new learning packs ready for collection. School are required to keep a log of learning packs that are returned each week.

Non-Screen time

We are committed to providing remote learning but do not want our children and staff sat in front of a screen all week long. On Monday afternoons (all afternoon) and on Fridays between 2-3pm, we will be setting PE and cultural tasks that will get children up and moving and enjoying creative time.

Help & Support

Our Facebook page and website are updated with new information regularly and are a great place to start. Our academy have set up a YouTube channel for parents with video tutorials – search for TKAT Parent or follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQNaKywZ3p9R6FutuzQg81g>. This page will continue to be added to so please subscribe. If you have any technical difficulties with your remote learning, please email our tech team at googlehelp@salmestone-tkat.org.

Contact with families

It is really important that school remains in contact with families whilst school is closed. For families who are accessing Google Classroom, the staff are seeing and speaking with the children daily so are having regular contact. Families who are learning on paper, we will have contact with you when you collect and return learning packs. If your child is not accessing Google Classroom and you are not returning learning packs, we will need to contact you. Staff may also contact families if insufficient learning is being returned via either the Google Classroom or via paper learning packs. As many staff are working remotely, please be aware that many school calls come up as 'No Caller ID'. The school office continues to be staffed during school hours so staff are also contactable, if you have any questions or need support with any aspect of home learning, please call the school and a message will be delivered to the appropriate member of staff. We may contact families for other reasons, the main one is that we miss seeing the children each day and we are keen to 'catch up' with you.



Mr N Pantling
Headteacher