



Great and Little Shelford C E (A) Primary School

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We live and work in harmony with love for one another so we can achieve our potential within a community of life-long learners.

Headteacher: Mr. Chris Grey PGCE, MEd

Home Learning

28th January 2021

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well. **Thank you so much** to families for all the effort you have put in at home to supporting home learning to succeed. I, and many of the staff, know first-hand that this is a huge challenge with work commitments. Your thoughtful and kind comments to the staff have really helped to keep us all going at such a challenging time. The children's amazing submissions have been a joy to read, see and watch! Our class teachers have continued to work exceptionally hard to plan, prepare, lead, review and feed back for pupils in school and at home – along with all their other roles in school.

As you may remember, class teachers review the home learning offer each week. Following my email to you on 15th January, I am writing to outline the continuing review of home learning. We recognise the need to provide a wide range of opportunities that meet the needs of all pupils from a wide range of circumstances. This means that we will continue to offer resources and materials in a variety of formats:

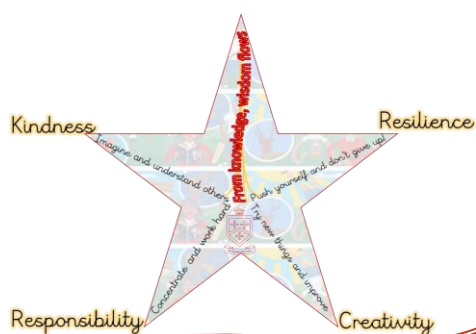
- Live Zoom sessions for various purposes;
- Pre-recorded content;
- Signposted resources and videos from other providers that have been carefully selected;
- Daily lesson summaries;
- Daily written feedback;
- Daily Collective Worship.

Following the previous lockdown, it was reported that focusing on social and emotional wellbeing is vital for the recovery from school closures. It is a vital part of our duty and vision. Many of us are experiencing that the third national lockdown is much more challenging for a variety of reasons. Therefore, we must continue to focus on wellbeing as it will enable pupils to return more smoothly when school reopens.

However, there will be an increase in the proportion of coverage of the curriculum in live and pre-recorded materials. For example, during Zoom sessions, teachers may teach items for the upcoming learning for the day – or delve deeper into a specific concept in English or another subject. Alternatively, teachers may add specific videos for certain lessons in order to support pupils. Your Class Teachers will keep in touch with you about the sessions. Additionally, Class Teachers may use carefully-selected video or other resources that tie into our Shelford curriculum.

As you will know, all our staff are in school for their working hours, supporting pupils with face-to-face provision. Whilst this limits what we can offer, communication continues to be vital. If you need any kind of support, please touch base with us. Whilst all our teachers will be in class, we may be able to find a way to support you via Teams, Zoom or telephone. This could be with respect to technical issues or specific learning activities. Additionally, we will continue to look at ways to make our amazing teachers available to support.

We continue to provide 3 hours learning for Key Stage 1 pupils and 4 hours for Key Stage 2 pupils, as required by the Department for Education. We understand the various demands at home and acknowledge this may not be possible. As a community of life-long learners, we are always aiming to reflect on what we offer and improve. As with everything, we will not be able to provide one offer that would be every person's preference.





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Some families may want more of one specific element, whilst others would prefer less for example. However, we aim to overcome this by offering a variety of approaches.

In order to streamline our approach to distributing resources, we have been trialling platforms in Year 4 and Year 6. The way that resources will be shared with families from Monday 1st February will be as follows:

Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 – through a Google Drive link emailed to you each week.

Year 5 and Year 6 – through Microsoft Teams by individual pupil logon.

Just as our offer reflects the needs and age of each class, the distribution method does too. Google Drive has a simple interface that pupils and parents can access all items in one place. Meanwhile, Teams allows some additional features for our older pupils and prepares them for the systems and platforms they will encounter in the later stages of their education and place of work.

Earlier on in the term, we have sought feedback from sample groups of families at the school (3 classes). This has informed our home learning offer. At the end of next week, we will send out a parent survey to all parents with respect to home learning, so that you can share how these changes have been for your child.

With best wishes,

Chris Grey

