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8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are all safe and well as we enter this next lockdown phase to reduce pressure on the NHS. We are mindful that this has been unsettling for many of us and we are all adapting to yet another way of working and living. The current advice is for us all is to **stay at home wherever possible** and we hope to be able to support you all in this. We know that children learn best in school, following a broad and balanced curriculum with the excellent professionals that we have in our staff team. However, in order to reduce the number of transmissions in the wider community, we are going to be moving our learning to a different format.

We are now planning for remote learning for all children, accessed in school for some. We want this to be of the highest quality and sustainable in the long term. If pupils need to come into school, they will not receive a different lesson. They will engage in the same remote learning as a supervised group (e.g. watch the suggested video on a whiteboard and complete the tasks on paper at the same time).

### **Remote learning**

We are adapting our curriculum plans to focus on developing pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills across the curriculum in a remote learning environment, rather than a traditional classroom environment. Our aim is to ensure that pupils are still meeting their age related expectations whilst they are not able to learn on site, causing minimal disruption and making the return to our challenging curriculum as smooth as possible when we are fully open again.

We are using an 'on demand' format because we know that this can help those of you managing home learning as a family, along with other responsibilities. Families can arrange learning and access to devices at times that are convenient for them.

In the Infant school, teachers will set home learning tasks in a variety of formats which will be equivalent to at least 3 hours a day, on average across the cohort, with less for younger children.

In the Junior school, pupils will be expected to learn for at least 4 hours per day. They will undertake an additional Core Skills Hour. For this hour they should:

- read for a sustained and extended period
- practise their times tables/age appropriate number facts for swift and accurate recall
- learn the meaning of words in their spelling lists and practise writing them in a variety of sentences that demonstrate their meaning and apply these within creative writing

For all pupils across both schools, the learning programme will focus on daily English and Maths as well as the wider curriculum. Recorded teacher input may include a variety of forms, including our own staff, Oak Academy or other high quality educational resources. Staff will monitor this daily, providing regular feedback.

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Currently, Tapestry and Class Email remain the primary vehicles for teacher/parent communication. Please do bear in mind that all teachers have a full time in school commitment, as well as to those learning at home. We endeavour to respond as quickly as possible, but this may not be on the same day.

### **Check in sessions**

We would like every class to have a regular weekly class 'check in', so that children can continue to come together as a class community. We are in the process of putting this together and further details will follow.

### **Access to devices**

Please complete the online form to indicate which devices you have available for children to use at home. We will use this information to ensure that our remote learning package is accessible to as many children as possible.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OnRYWtb4UUj33UglwIZG8vnwe6P6\\_mtDp9LEmyj89MJUMTZMVzZYRkIXRzNJTjBCUTA4SVgxSTZBVS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=OnRYWtb4UUj33UglwIZG8vnwe6P6_mtDp9LEmyj89MJUMTZMVzZYRkIXRzNJTjBCUTA4SVgxSTZBVS4u)

You may have heard in the news that the government is providing laptops to children who do not have devices at home. This is not entirely accurate! We are working with the DfE to secure additional devices for those who need it but the criteria for this is very stringent and does not apply to Infants either. We will be in touch if we think you may qualify.

### **Critical workers**

The following is the direct guidance from the DfE:

“Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required. This includes parents who may be working from home. Schools should speak to parents and carers to identify who needs to go to school. If it proves necessary, schools can ask for simple evidence that the parent in question is a critical worker, such as their work ID badge or pay slip. **Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.**”

Thank you to everyone who filled in our survey quickly and indicated their critical worker status. We have endeavoured to provide on-site provision for everyone who indicated that they required it.

*Please only send your child in if they cannot be safely cared for at home.*

As a school, we do have higher numbers of children of critical workers than average, and it is very important that we try to keep our numbers as low as possible to reduce contacts and potential transmission in the community. If it comes to our attention that a child in school can be safely cared for at home, we will ask that they remain there instead.

### **If your child is coming in to school**

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*Do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of or have tested positive for coronavirus in the past 10 days. Contact the school office if you are unsure whether your child can come in.*

- Children should come into school in their normal school uniform, with trainers instead of school shoes, if you wish.
- Additional layers may be worn on top/underneath school uniform.
- At the Junior school, children may wear their PE kit for the day when they are scheduled for games sessions (days tbc).
- At the Infant school, PE kits will not be required. However, please ensure that your child has a pair of named plimsolls in school at all times.
- Children are not to wear face masks/coverings in school, as per government guidance.
- Please continue to wash clothing regularly, especially as children may be undertaking additional physical activities in their normal school wear.
- Children should be arriving at school only within their scheduled slot, in order to reduce the overall number of social contacts within our school community.
- For children ordering meals, Caterlink have informed us today that they will be changing to a different menu from Monday. We will send out more details once they become available. You can continue to order as normal, though your child's option may change.

Thank you all for your patience and support at this time. We are continuing to adapt to the national requirements, serving our own community as best we can. We hope you all remain safe and well.

K Geddes  
Headteacher  
Court Lane Infants

L Flitton  
Headteacher  
Court Lane Juniors