



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

Move to remote learning from Tuesday 5th January

4th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I write to inform you that, after meeting with all staff and our Chair of Governors today, **our school will move to remote learning as of tomorrow, Tuesday 5th January**. We have an ongoing commitment to keep our school community and the wider community safe at a time when the new variant of COVID19 transmits at a significantly higher rate, and we remain under tier 4 restrictions. As I stated yesterday many areas bordering Welwyn and Hatfield have been told by the government to move to remote learning and indeed many schools in our locality are doing so from tomorrow as well.

Union advice to staff is not to return to work as it is not safe to work under the conditions of a full reopening to all children. SAGE advised the government to close all schools for the first 2 weeks of January as the R rate was above 1 and would not be reduced with schools fully open. It is reluctantly, and with a heavy heart that our school staff have decided to follow the advice of their unions. Our staff, as you know, are wonderfully committed team and worked exceptionally hard last term to ensure our children received the best education possible in the safest possible way. All staff remain committed to supporting our key worker families and our vulnerable children during remote learning.

Remote learning

All teachers will teach remotely following the remote learning protocol that was shared with you last half term and is available on our school website. There will be a **compulsory registration period each morning between 8.45-9am** which all children will be expected to attend. Lessons will then be available for you to access throughout the day to fit in with any sibling's school work or work you may have to do from home. There will then be a **compulsory Connect Time from 2.30pm-3.15pm** at the end of the day to discuss the days learning with their teacher and ask any questions. Please see the remote learning protocol for greater detail. **All children are expected to engage with remote learning and teachers will monitor this closely.** Non-attendance will be followed up by a phone call from the class teacher or for continued non-attendance a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We must work together to ensure our children receive the best remote education possible, teachers are there to support you with this so please do contact them with any queries via email. We have been preparing all of last term for the possibility of remote learning and feel well placed to ensure that it works well.

Key workers/vulnerable children

A separate letter will be sent to those families that have filled in form and sent in the relevant documents of proof of employment to the school office. There are no more key worker spaces available.

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



Support with technology

Those Pupil Premium families that have indicated they need support with technology will be contacted today with the support we can offer.

Free school meals

If you are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals we will be able to provide a packed lunch daily for you to collect from school. If you would like to collect a lunch for your child/children please fill in the survey on the link below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=YknOpvjHcU-1jK5Z3MfNotcJdnB-ZilGrMzoLLTG_cxURFdHskjTVjNIQU5BM1hPUePHNTVGTldRRy4u

Exercise books

We will be providing exercise books for all children to complete their remote learning in, and a book and stationery for pupil premium families. **They will be available to collect from boxes at the school gate today from 1pm.** Please take one book per child, they are different for each Key Stage so please ensure you take a book from the correctly labelled box for each of your children.

Review

Union advice is that staff should not return to fully reopened schools until the 18th January, however as a school we will review this at the end of this week in light of any changes in guidance, and return to full opening as soon as possible. Please ensure you check your emails and the school website on a regular basis.

I sincerely hope the move to remote learning is for a short period only and that we can gather as our school community once again. I also hope that this move ensures the safety of our school and wider community and ensures the rate of transmission of COVID19 significantly reduces. With vaccines now being given there is light at the end of a very long tunnel, we must continue to work together until this comes.

As always I thank you for your patience and support at this incredibly difficult time.

Faith is like a small lamp in a dark forest. It does not show everything at once but gives enough light for the next step to be safe!

God Bless

Mrs Katie Linnane
Head Teacher