



# North Somercotes Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I just wanted to take the time to update you on the current situation in school and offer some reflections as we have very quickly had to adapt to the recent decision to close school.

Currently in school we have the balancing act of meeting the needs of our families both in school and remotely. We currently have approximately 45 children accessing school through critical worker/vulnerable children provision. All staff are currently working in school – teachers, teaching assistants, lunchtime staff, office staff and other support staff. Alongside this, teachers and teaching assistants are monitoring the Microsoft TEAMS platform to support remote learning. At the same time as this we are also working to meet the needs of families eligible for Free School Meals and are busy organising school transport arrangements for families that need this. Suffice to say it has been an extremely busy and challenging time in school.

We welcome supporting the children of critical workers, however please only use school-based provision if you really need it. The children in school today have been amazing!

For those working remotely at home I empathise with the challenges you face. As a father of 2 primary school aged children I know how stressful remote learning can be, however I also know what a joy and privilege it can be at times. **Thank you all for the work you are doing with your child.** We have naturally received some mixed feedback regarding the platform – some that have been able to access everything, others that have not. Much of this tends to be related to the different scope of technology in the home and how this differs from what we have in school. The following points may help judging from the feedback we have had today.

- Most work is uploaded as a PDF as this is the most common file that be accessed from devices. These can be hard to edit. There is not a requirement to write over the work. Using your device to display the learning materials you can then complete the work on paper. If you wish to share this with your child's class teacher you can then take a photograph of your work. You can then upload this picture using the chat function. There is no right or wrong way, with other families using other methods. That is great! This has just worked for a number of families we have supported today.
- The front page gives a general chat function. Please note this is visible to all and should only be used by the children for general chat and comments. The best way to communicate directly with your class teacher and share your work is to message them privately.
- There is no specific requirement to upload all your work and share it with your class teacher. We would love to see your work and we will feedback briefly on all work shared.
- A large number of children have misplaced login details – we have these available in the school office.
- We have now loaned out nearly every iPad we have in school although unfortunately due to the age of our iPads they are incompatible with Microsoft TEAMS. However, they can still be used for browsing other educational resources. We have requested further devices from the DfE – watch this space!?!
- We believe Microsoft TEAMS can be downloaded through an X box and other gaming platforms. We have not done this but there are many guides online to do this. This might be worth a try if you are stuck. Get in touch if we can help.



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**Please remember this is only Day 1 – we are going to have to work together to make this work for the children for a number of weeks.** We want to help and support families but please be patient with us – scaling up remote learning whilst over a quarter of children are in school is a real challenge for us too! In the event you are unable to access any online resources we can print work for you. **We truly appreciate all the work you are doing with your child – we are here to support not to put any extra pressure on families.**

Please also be aware of other educational resources available online from the BBC and Oak Academy among others. It is by no means definitive, but there is a list of online educational resources in the remote learning section of our school website.

We are also anticipating more Government announcements that will require us to change what we offer – we will always respond with the interests of our children and families at heart.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [office@nspri.co.uk](mailto:office@nspri.co.uk) – I genuinely welcome your feedback and will ensure we do all we can to continue to support our school community.

Yours sincerely  
Paul Floyd  
Headteacher

**Attendance = Achievement**

