



Dear Parents and Carers

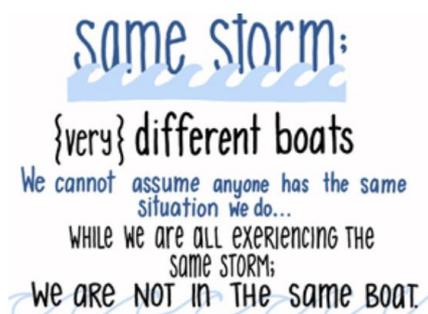
I hope that this letter finds you safe and well? I am writing to you in the hope that I can reassure you on a few concerns that I know a lot of you have.

As a school, we don't underestimate the pressures that have been put upon our families as many of you try to hold down jobs whilst educating your child/ren remotely. This lockdown is different to the first lockdown and you will notice that the learning opportunities have evolved over time, and that now your child will be accessing 'new learning' whereas before we had a heavy focus on revision of previously covered topics.

Last week, a few parents have asked us about our reasons for not using live lessons. There is no expectation from the Department for Education to conduct live lessons and where these have been tried, they have been exceptionally challenging for young children; the teacher is often interrupted by all manner of distractions which makes listening to instructions and ideas difficult for the child and makes it hard for the teacher to help and guide individuals. By using recorded videos, parents can use them with their child at a time that suits them and they can be paused, rewind and used at a pace that is appropriate for their child. Parents have emailed or spoken to us thanking us for the high-quality videos prepared by our teachers that give their child the opportunity to pause, rewind and review the learning. We have a clear rationale for our remote learning plan that we strongly feel is the best way for our community. It may not be the same as the school down the road, but having spoken to a number of parents, this is what feels manageable for our community.

The link to our distance learning contingency plan and other useful information for parents – including online safety - can be found here:

[Remote Learning :: Treloweth School](#)



As a school, we don't want to put more pressure on parents than has already been put upon you as a result of the National Lockdown resulting in having your children at home. We are monitoring the learning that your child is completing as it is really important that we can keep tabs on what the children are accessing. This will help us with our planning when we resume face to face teaching. If your child finds something hard, please do let us know – we are here for you and will support in any way we can.

Over the past few weeks there have been lots of questions about remote learning and we would like to take this opportunity to answer them as we continue to strive to support you as best we can. We hope you find the list of questions below helpful along with the FAQ page (attached) that covers a range of questions asked by parents nationally. These are some of the questions that we have been asked over the past weeks by parents:



What is the expectation?

We are expecting our children to access the learning that is scheduled every day. We are setting enough learning for the key stages based on guidance from the Department for Education. If you find that your child is taking hours over a task, please do let us know and we can find ways to help your child with this. The reason we are expecting children to access learning every day is so that they can follow the small steps to develop their understanding. We ask that your child posts learning to their portfolio once they have completed each activity. This will help us monitor the learning and it also means that we can comment and celebrate the learning that has been completed. By breaking down the activities, it might also help the children to see the learning in small chunks rather than feeling overwhelmed by all the videos and tasks.

Why are there next steps on a piece of learning?

Some of the comments on the learning will celebrate what has been achieved whilst also giving the child a 'next step' to help move their learning on. This is similar to the comments you would see in a child's book in school. This is not a negative process, but a way to help the children to think about editing their learning or improving it. The children will be used to this from the way they learn in school.

How can I help my child stay connected?

Some parents have expressed concerns about their child's mental health and their struggle with the lack of socialising. We understand that this is really challenging and, as a school, we will do whatever we can to support your child in whatever way we can. The social aspect is tough for adults and children alike, but we are very grateful that some families have been organising family quizzes, zoom socials and play dates in order to maintain some of the contact. It is inevitable that in order to maintain the social connection, there is going to be an element of online usage in order to facilitate hangouts. Here are some guides and websites that might help with some ideas to keep children feeling connected and you may find some of our answers in the FAQ section useful in addition to this.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/how-to-stay-connected-during-lockdown/>

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/about-us/geek-dad-advice>

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/news/kentlife/25120/expert-tips-keeping-kids-social-at-home-during-lockdown>

<https://www.attachmentmummy.com/2020/04/13-fun-ways-for-kids-to-connect-with.html>

Will my child ever catch up?

We know that some children – in particular in upper Key Stage 2 – are concerned about 'lost learning' and not being able to catch up. As a school, we are confident that if the children can access the learning we are putting up online every day, they will keep up. We don't ask any more than that at this stage. On our return to school, we will focus predominantly on the children's mental health and wellbeing whilst also re-establishing the routines that we know support the children to access the learning in a school situation. Our skilled teachers will pitch the learning to meet their needs and move the learning on when the children are ready.

My child is refusing to do the learning. What can I do?

Let us know. We are happy to make phone calls, set up Zoom meetings, send little motivational videos, write messages – whatever it takes to encourage the children. We understand that children are struggling to dissociate between home and school and I am sure that they are saying 'no' to you where they wouldn't normally say it in a school situation.



I am struggling. What can I do?

Let us know. We don't underestimate the challenges you are facing at the moment and as the dust settles and we can see the enormity and impact of the National Lockdown on everyone's lives, our emotions will be all over the place. Above all, please be kind to yourselves. Don't set unrealistic expectations and if it all gets too much, please know we are here to help in any way we can.

Please don't hesitate to contact us further should you require any further support or clarification. We are available on the school telephone or via Class Dojo. We are all in this together.

Yours sincerely,

The Treloweth Team

