



# Northfield St. Nicholas Primary Academy

St Margaret's Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4HN

☎: 01502 563528

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Headteacher: Mr. I. W. Owens



Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. J. Catchpole

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. T. Freeman

Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

As we write to you we are aware that the government has just announced that schools will not be returning until March 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest. Naturally this is very disappointing for us all. We recognise how hard home learning is for our families and are constantly seeking to try and improve our remote learning offer to make it more effective. We thank all our families for their patience and support during this time as our staff work hard to develop strategies and resources that might best suit the many needs the community may have.

It is important to be aware that although NSN has been closed to most pupils, we are still open to children of critical workers and also vulnerable children. We have staff working hard to support 5 different groups of children currently:

- a) those in school learning in class with the year group teacher (approximately 70 children),
- b) those at home and using online learning via Google classrooms to remote learn, hosted by the other year group teacher, (approximately 130) (The school has loaned out over 60 laptops to support this)
- c) those electing to use weekly paper packs to remote learn, (approximately 115)
- d) those at home not engaging in remote learning. (approximately 35)
- e) EYFS pupils whose families have access to online learning via TAPESTRY (78)

As you can imagine this is a real logistical and professional challenge for our teams; especially as we have a reduced workforce currently because of sickness & COVID19 shielding/self isolating etc. We are continually revising our strategies to support/engage all these groups of children and their families.

Thank you again for the patience, support and understanding so many of our families have shown as we try to get things up and running successfully.

**From next week we are planning to have some live online lessons up and running for all year groups 1-6. This will be hosted through the Google classrooms platform.** We are hoping this will encourage more children to come online and engage with their remote learning and come away from paper packs. These live lessons will also be recorded for pupils to access or revisit later during the day if required. There will be some specific consent and terms of use forms for parents to sign if they wish their children to take part, please look out for these when we share them so you can return to us asap. EYFS will continue to engage with their remote learning via the TAPESTRY online platform.

**If your Year 1 -6 child is not yet accessing learning via Google classrooms and you would like additional guidance on how to do this, please do email the school and we will do our best to help.** Please be aware, Google classroom is not suitable for our EYFS pupils.

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*The Northfield St Nicholas way !*

Learning Leadership Enjoyment Responsibility Inspiration Inclusion Integrity





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We are very aware that most of our pupils are expected to engage with remote learning and are very aware of the challenges that presents both these children and their families. We know the pressure that the government expectations that KS1 children should receive 3 hours a day of remote learning and that KS2 children should be receiving 4 hours of remote learning each day could bring many families.

The government has also been clear that schools need to ensure they have daily contact with all pupils who are remote learning. We understand that for some families this has also caused challenges as well as the logistical issues it presents the school staff to make and maintain this daily contact which needs to ascertain 2 key pieces of information, as instructed by the DfE.

These are that:

- a) school must be confident the child is safe.
- b) the parent/child has had an opportunity to receive academic feedback on the remote learning taking place.

Although most families find the regular phone calls from school staff supportive and helpful and tell us so, we are aware that this is not helpful or supportive for others. Therefore in response to feedback we are looking to adjust our strategy to demonstrate that we are fulfilling our obligation for daily contact with each pupil.

So, from next week, we will be changing the way that we have daily contact with families in order to make this more manageable for those who are finding the daily phone calls difficult and in order to make staff workload more manageable as we move more to live online learning provision.

Please can we ask that each morning, before 9am, either:

- your child checks in on Google Classroom and is ready to access the remote learning on this platform during the day
- you email the school on the relevant year group email address (see list below) to confirm your child's check in score for the morning and upload 2 pieces of work from the previous day. During the day a member of staff will then provide feedback on the learning via email. If you wish to speak to a member of staff on the phone, please request this in your email and we will be happy to call you at some point that day.

Please note that in order for class teachers to maintain the expected Department for Education contact with the children who are learning from home, parents will need to email the school with this information daily. Remember, if your child is in school physically, or

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actively engaging with Google classrooms then you do not need to email us, only if your child is not actively engaged with online remote learning or listed with the school as learning remotely via weekly paper packs.

Class teachers make phone calls home once a week for all children who are not accessing the live lessons on Google Classroom. If your child is accessing the live lessons but also needs a weekly phone call the teachers will let them know how to request this during the live sessions each week. **Our Pastoral Team will continue to make regular contact with families who we feel may benefit from some extra support or for families who request additional contact.**

Please remember that if you fail to collect your weekly paper pack and do not email the school daily or simply do not collect your weekly learning pack, then the school has a duty of care for your child that means we have to make daily contact. This would be done by telephone if you do not follow the contact guidance above. After 72 hours of non contact the school has a duty of care to escalate this to a safeguarding concern that could result in our safeguarding protocols being initiated, such as a home visit or referral to Suffolk County Council Children's Services or the Education Welfare Officer at the Local Authority. This is the Government's safeguarding expectations and our duty of care to safeguard children.

Watch out for Year Group weekly newsletters from the teachers that they will be sending out soon. You will receive a text/email notification next week. We hope these will help you keep up to speed on everything happening in class, online and with paper pack remote learning.

Take care and stay safe.

Your Sincerely

Mr I W Owens

Email addresses for contacting us as above:

**YEAR 1 LEARNERS:** [remotelearningyear1@nsnacademy.com](mailto:remotelearningyear1@nsnacademy.com)

**YEAR 2 LEARNERS:** [remotelearningyear2@nsnacademy.com](mailto:remotelearningyear2@nsnacademy.com)

**YEAR 3 LEARNERS:** [remotelearningyear3@nsnacademy.com](mailto:remotelearningyear3@nsnacademy.com)

**YEAR 4 LEARNERS:** [remotelearningyear4@nsnacademy.com](mailto:remotelearningyear4@nsnacademy.com)

**YEAR 5 LEARNERS:** [remotelearningyear5@nsnacademy.com](mailto:remotelearningyear5@nsnacademy.com)

**YEAR 6 LEARNERS:** [remotelearningyear6@nsnacademy.com](mailto:remotelearningyear6@nsnacademy.com)

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