



Our Vision

To inspire a love of learning

St Gilbert's Church of England Primary School

Foundry Road Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 2PP

Thursday 4th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of all the staff, I do hope you are all well and keeping safe. The current lockdown is proving long and challenging for us all but the lighter mornings and evenings indicate that Spring is on its way, with the promise of children returning to school and life beginning to move forwards and growing.

I would like to thank all those parents who have written in to thank the staff for all they are doing in these current times. This feedback is greatly valued by us all as we work hard to ensure that all children, whether in school or working remotely, remain connected.

With that in mind, we have continued to review our provision of remote learning, also considering the equally important emails from parents enquiring whether we can provide additional provision.

We have discussed at length how the school can move forwards in terms of remote learning provision, keeping in mind that at the heart of all we do as a staff, is ensuring the physical and mental well-being and academic progress of all our children whilst continuing to recognise the importance that each and every one of us plays in the lives of our pupils. I know you will recognise that it is also important for me as the Headteacher to balance the workload of staff whilst achieving this, in order to support staff well-being.

We have considered the feedback we have received from parents who have requested additional visual connection and interactions with those who are learning remotely. We agree that this is hugely important for our pupils so that they continue to be motivated and engaged in their learning as well as feeling connected with their peers and staff.

Therefore, in developing our provision, we are implementing the following over the next couple of weeks:

- Staff will be increasing their communication with pupils via Seesaw, ensuring that there is a greater amount of feedback which recognises achievements and also moves learning forwards.
- All pupils will receive a recorded video message each morning to start the day which will show their class teacher's face, rather than the current voice recording. The message will reflect on learning from the previous day and then set out the expectations for the current day.
- Voice overs will be used more in lessons, where relevant, to explain content further in order to motivate all pupils and scaffold knowledge and skills.



**OPERATION
ENCOMPASS**
In every force. In every school. For every child.

Headteacher: Miss F Dicker
Company No. 8321824
T: 01780 762400
enquiries@stgilberts.co.uk
www.stgilberts.co.uk

- We will also be introducing Creative Friday Afternoons. These will comprise of more practical activities linked to current learning and speaking and listening activities. We will also link the creative activities to the 5 Ways to Well-Being to support the mental health of all our pupils. Pupils will receive a virtual wheel which they can spin. The activity the arrow lands on will be the one they complete and share via Seesaw. Themes will be agreed in each year group and discussed in Class Teams sessions.
- From next week, we will also be introducing an extra weekly Teams meeting by year group within each class. This means there will be separate year group meetings in addition to the whole class Teams meeting on a Thursday or Friday. Our aim is to increase visual contact with staff and to ensure that all pupils can mix and talk with their class year group more confidently due to smaller numbers of children participating. As part of safeguarding we have asked parents to be present, though this can comprise of a parent being present in the room rather than joining in the meeting.

The **year group meetings** will focus on:

- using the Chat function to ask children to share how things went in the previous week/anything they found tricky – *we are now introducing this due to the children demonstrating that they know and understand our expectations of behaviour when online, though we recognise that those in EYFS and KS1 may need support with this.* The classteacher will explain how this will work during the first session.
- what's coming up in the current week; motivational messages to encourage them to try their best in their learning
- games or activities which promotes interaction between the children as much as possible

The timings for each year group will be as follows:

Session time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
9:30 - 10		Morpurgo Y5 Rowling Y6 Snicket Y6	
10 - 10:30		Morpurgo Y6 Rowling Y5 Snicket Y5	
1:20– 1:50	Donaldson Y1 Milne Y1 Seuss Y2	Strong Y3 Dahl Y3 Fine Y4	
2– 2:30	Donaldson Y2 Milne Y2 Seuss Y1	Strong Y4 Dahl Y4 Fine Y3	2:15 – 2:45 Caterpillars & Tigers together

The **whole class meetings** on a Thursday or Friday (times remain the same) will focus on:

- a roundup of the week, celebrating successes and news from home
- exploring with the children what they would like to learn about/stories they would like to hear
- plans for the weekend/what are they looking forward to
- games or activities to involve everyone



Headteacher: Miss FDicker
Company No. 8321824
T: 01780 762400
enquiries@stgilberts.co.uk
www.stgilberts.co.uk



- We will continue to ring or Teams call parents of children not engaging in learning and also those families who are currently receiving additional support. I cannot stress enough though, the importance of families reaching out to us as well, should you just need to talk things through or ask for additional support.
- Children will be receiving story time from a variety of staff in school – these will be recorded and shared with you.
- We have missed Celebration Worship with all our children so from next Friday we will be recording Celebration Worship, recognising the achievements of pupils whether in and out of school. The video will then be shared with you.

After Half Term

- In the first two weeks after half term (weeks of 22nd Feb and 1st Mar), all teachers will be contacting parents of children who have been working from home, via Teams. The aim of these 10 minute meetings are to talk with you and your child about their learning and well-being, ahead of their return to school on March 8th, all being well. The organisation will work much like our recent parent consultations where you choose a slot for a meeting via Parentmail.

I would like to thank all parents who are supporting their child's learning at home and also their physical and mental well-being. You are doing a fantastic job! I am very much aware that you are also juggling your own workloads and wider family responsibilities and do not underestimate the difficulties this can pose. As you know, the government has indicated that pupils will be returning to school on March 8th at the earliest. We are very much looking forward to this and send our best wishes to you all.

Kindest regards



Miss F Dicker
Headteacher