



# South Gosforth First School

*'Roots to grow and wings to fly'*

02.02.21

Dear Parents & Carers

As you are all aware, staff in school are currently working extremely hard to provide a whole raft of remote learning videos and activities via 'Tapestry' and 'Seesaw' each week for our pupils who are learning from home - we are really proud of our home learning offer and the quality and breadth of the sessions which we are delivering both to our pupils in school and our children who are accessing this remotely.

After the announcement from the government that children will not be back in school until March 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest, senior leaders and staff in school have been discussing some potential ways in which we could further strengthen our current remote learning offer. After a lot of careful consideration and planning, some of our staff have agreed to start delivering some live lessons which will be streamed to the children at home, **starting from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February onwards**. **Please note that this is not all staff – some teachers feel that they would rather carry on with sharing pre-recorded lessons on 'Tapestry' and 'Seesaw'. We recognise that leading live lessons isn't for everyone and we completely support them in this decision.**

We have 2 main reasons for wanting to develop our remote learning in this way – We believe that by streaming some lessons live so that the children from home can access the exact same teaching input as the children who are in school, this enables us to provide a fairer and more equitable learning offer where there is more parity between what pupils get at home and at school. In addition to this, teachers and teaching assistants pre-recording 5 videos which go out to families each day is extremely time consuming for staff and is very labour intensive due to the fact that videos are recorded a week in advance and then staff deliver this teaching again on the weeks when they are in school. This is on top of giving feedback to pupils on 'Tapestry' and 'Seesaw', as well as planning and resourcing the lessons for the subsequent week. This is simply not sustainable. Therefore, some of our staff felt that live streaming some the lessons which they were delivering in school would also have a positive impact upon their workload and work-life balance which I am sure that everyone would agree is a positive thing.

## What will the new remote learning offer look like?

For the teachers who have chosen to take part in delivering live sessions, the remote learning offer will consist of the following:

- 2 x live teaching sessions per day. One on a morning and one on an afternoon. These will be at set times which will remain the same every day so that our families who are learning from home can put appropriate plans in place to access these sessions when they can. These sessions will be accessed via the 'Zoom' application. **Please note that these live sessions will also be recorded and uploaded on to 'Tapestry' and 'Seesaw' within an hour after they have been delivered, so if any of our families can't access the sessions live for any reason, they can access them later on in the school day whenever it is convenient for them.**
- 1 x pre-recorded video teaching session per day shared on 'Tapestry' or 'Seesaw'.
- 1 x pre-recorded video of a story per day (lead by Teaching Assistants) shared on 'Tapestry' or 'Seesaw'.
- 1 x guided reading group session per fortnight via 'Zoom' (starting after the half term break)
- 1 x learning activity per day will be shared which will not have an associated teaching video.

Each week, teachers will release the timetable of activities for the subsequent week for pupils both at home and at school (including guided reading sessions). On this timetable, live lessons will be clearly highlighted and the links to access these lessons via 'Zoom' will be shared in advance. Families who are learning from home will simply have to click on the link at the appropriate time to access the live lesson (or access 'Tapestry' / 'Seesaw' if they need to access the recording of the lesson later on in the day).

At the beginning of each live teaching session on the morning, the class teacher will wish the children 'Good Morning' or 'Good Afternoon', give a run-down of the day and check in with all of the children both in school and at home to see how everyone is and have a few minutes catch up (however, please note that after this initial catch up, when the teaching session starts, the children will be asked to hide their screens and mute their microphones – questions or requests for support must be addressed through the 'chat' function.) In light of this, as well as the fact that there will be live small group guided reading sessions happening once per fortnight over 'Zoom' where the children will be chatting to their teacher and some of their peers, we will no longer be delivering the weekly 'Zoom' catch up meetings with the children after school or the separate 'Good Morning' videos each day.

It is important to mention that it is only possible to record the full live stream and not just specific parts of it. Therefore, if you would prefer not to give consent for your child(ren) to be visible on a recording or live stream at any point in the lesson, please keep your screen hidden (and mute microphones too if you also don't want your child's voice on the video), including the 'Good Morning' welcome check in section of the session. It is also important to note that the recordings of the live lessons will only be shared in closed groups on 'Tapestry' and 'Seesaw' which are password protected. Teachers will ensure that they only admit participants to join the 'Zoom' meetings who have children's forename and first initial (eg, Sarah F) from their year group.

#### **What will the offer look like if my child's teacher is not doing live lessons?**

- 3 x pre-recorded teaching sessions per day shared on 'Tapestry' or 'Seesaw'
- 1 x pre-recorded video of a story per day (lead by Teaching Assistants) shared on 'Tapestry' or 'Seesaw'
- 1 x guided reading group session per fortnight via 'Zoom' (starting after the half term break)
- 1 x learning activity per day will be shared which will not have an associated teaching video

Please note that each year group has at least one member of teaching staff who will be leading on live teaching sessions, so the provision outlined above would only be in place every other week in the year groups where one teacher was not taking part in live sessions.

#### **Feedback**

Teaching staff will be getting in touch with our families on 'Tapestry' or 'Seesaw' to inform everyone about the specific times within the school day when staff will be giving feedback to pupils online on their uploaded work. We feel that it is important to identify a clear cut off point for staff to stop giving feedback each day, as currently some teachers and teaching assistants are working on this right up until 11pm, which is simply not sustainable for anyone. Staff will endeavour to respond to any uploaded work which is submitted after the cut off time the following day (although as we have stipulated before, it may not be possible to give feedback to every child on every piece of work.)

#### **Safeguarding, GDPR & Privacy**

Please also find attached to this email important parent & family protocols and an addendum to our 'Acceptable Use of Information Technology' policy linked to live teaching. It is absolutely imperative that all of our parents and carers read these documents really carefully to ensure that everyone fully understands school's expectations when taking part in live lessons. By accessing live lessons, families are therefore agreeing to abide by the guidelines set out in these documents. If our pupils or families consistently do not abide by these guidelines, we reserve the right to disable these families from taking part in the live sessions.

We do hope that you will all agree that this development of our remote learning offer will be a positive step forward, particularly for our pupils and families who are learning from home.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Whitehouse if anyone has any questions or queries.

Best wishes to you all.

Mr Adams

Head Teacher