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**Headteacher: Mrs K Douglass**  
(1:1 BA Hons in Education)

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Once again, we find ourselves in the position of home learning. This is not the start to 2021 that we all hoped for and was certainly not planned for by teachers. However, with the rolling out of the Oxford vaccination and another approved vaccine today, let us hope that this is one last push before we can resume the life that we once knew.

Firstly, I fully understand the pressures on you as families at the moment. I know that many of you will not be working or will be working from home. Some of you may have limitations as to how much you can support home learning due to your own work or family structure. Hopefully, the past three days have given you some time to contact teachers with snagging problems, request paper-based work as an alternative, communicate your request for a device to borrow or additional internet requests. If you have requested additional internet data or a device, I will be in contact once these arrive. Myself and staff are contactable during school hours to support you with your child's home learning, so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With this lockdown, schools have received new, revised guidance and expectations set by The Department for Education, so there are some changes from last March's lockdown. One such change is the necessity to register pupils on a daily basis. This is to support schools with their safeguarding responsibilities. With this in mind, from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** it is an expectation that all pupils sign into Google Classroom **each morning** and register with their class teacher. This needs to be done before 9.30am each morning. If a pupil does not register or you have not already contacted the class teacher, the school office will follow this up with a telephone call, much like we do on a normal school day. If you have any safeguarding/wellbeing concerns, please contact me on [head@tregony.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@tregony.cornwall.sch.uk)

Earlier this week, I sent home our plan for home learning. The government is empathic in their expectation that schools ensure pupils remain actively engaged with the home learning set throughout this period and that schools should support families in achieving this. As said in my last letter, we are offering both online learning and paper-based activities to give families a choice of what works best for them. We have placed a timetable of learning on each class page on our website, which will help you to see a breakdown of the week. Please can we request that work is submitted as stated in my previous letter. We will also ask you and your child to complete a weekly feedback form with a focus on your child's learning. This will be sent via Google Classroom. This will help us to support your child's learning even more. This should be submitted on a Thursday. If pupils are not engaging with home learning, the school is expected by The Department for Education to follow this up to discuss associated problems and determine what the school can do to help. If you are having problems, please contact the class teacher or myself and we will support you as much as we can. We are learning too. When we trained as teachers, this was not part of the training

process and we may make mistakes and are aware that we will not get everything right for everybody, all of the time. Please bear with us, help us to become better, but understand how on Monday, schools were open, Tuesday they were closed and by Wednesday open again and expected to deliver online education! I have to say, I think our teachers have done a remarkable job in responding to the rapidly changing situation.

With this in mind, we have developed our home learning to attempt to build on the sense of connection between school and home and to reduce the risk of children losing what they have learned already. To facilitate this, we will be holding a twice weekly GoogleMeet with pupils. Please can you read through the guidelines below with your child/children. Attached to this email are instructions on how to access GoogleMeet. It is not an expectation for pupils to access these, but it would be nice! We will constantly be looking at ways to develop our online learning as we progress.

Whilst the government most certainly has higher expectations from schools and home learning, it is important that we keep things in perspective. The home learning is there to support you and your children to learn at home whilst we get this virus under control. If you do not log on to every meeting or your child is not enjoying every task, or they do not fit into your own work patterns, then please do not stress. However, if your child does not do a lesson one day, they may need to do the one they have missed, before moving on to the next lesson. This is because lessons are sequential and build on previous learning. Equally, problems may arise with technology, so if you log on to a GoogleMeet and you are not admitted or there is no sound or video, then please just log off and don't worry. Please do what is right for you, your child and family at a time that is convenient to you. This might be some form of daily exercise or watching an hour of the BBC education channel. Remember, we all have bad days. Your children will be okay. When we return back to school, we need well parents and children so we can work together on your child's education. What we have to remember is that our children are adapting. They are learning new skills, building resilience, empathy and trying to make sense of a global pandemic that has shaken their world as they know it and before they fully understand it.

Please can I ask that you check our website, Facebook page and your email inbox for updates. Copies of my emails/letters will also be found in the Covid file on our school website also. Thank you.

Kind regards and take care.

Kate Douglass

Headteacher

### **How to join a GoogleMeet**

Your teacher will post a link in your Google Classroom just before your GoogleMeet is scheduled (Porthluney – 09:00, Portholland – 09:30, Porthcurnick – 10:00, Summers – 10:30 and Towan – 11:00).

Click on the link and it'll take you to the meeting where your teacher will be waiting for you.  
Please join the meeting with your microphone off. Thank you.

