



## **We are an Operation Encompass School**

Tuesday 29th September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a school we have been looking at ways we can address remote learning to further support children academically in the event of another lockdown or if there is a need for a bubble to self-isolate. Back in March, when we went into National Lockdown none of us anticipated that the children would be away from school for so long. We appreciate that the system of using the 'cloud' came with some difficulties and was not wholly accessible by all. This is why we have conducted a survey on 'Access to Technology' to try to find a better solution. Going forward as a school we want to explore how teachers, parents and children can communicate through a safe online platform that will allow additional support to be provided by the teachers for pupils. It is especially important to us that the platform allows interaction between us and your child/children so we are able to set work but also support them in completing it through videos and direct communication and for children to be able to upload pictures of completed work so that we can provide feedback on it.

The learning platform we have chosen is **Class Dojo** which is suitable for the whole school- from Nursery to Year 6. We recognise that when you have multiple children it can be difficult to move between different platforms so we wanted a platform that would fit all year groups. Many other schools in the local area are using this platform and we have been able to gather lots of positive feedback about its ease of application and its different uses, in addition to ensuring it is secure and complies with new GDPR guidelines (you can see the privacy policy, view via this link <https://www.classdojo.com/privacy/>). The capacity to download the app is available via android or apple devices for the 'child' version as well as the 'parent dashboard' but you can also access it through any web browser. This link <https://classdojo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360040922371-ClassDojo-for-Remote-Learning> can explain in more detail what Class Dojo can offer us as a school community and the key features which we have also summarised for you below.

### **Class Story**

Staff will be able to use the 'Class Story' to share whole-class messages, updates, reminders, photos and videos though the app or website. This is completely private and only visible by the class's parents and children (unlike social media). Children will be able to access an area of the Class Dojo website to store pieces of work via a portfolio. **In order to set this up we need your permission which you provide when you set up your account.** You will also be able to view any work your child has uploaded to their portfolio as well as any in school rewards or 'Dojo Points' which will be part of our reward system. We are hoping this will be a great, fresh incentive for the children going forward.



### **At Home Learning**

In the case of a child or bubble needing to 'self-isolate' or in the event of another 'lockdown' we will be using this platform to support our focus for home learning and to set and deliver lessons. Class Dojo will also be used for homework (to minimise items going back and forth between houses and schools as much as possible as books need to be quarantined), rewards, home school liaison, school updates as well of communicating directly with your child's class teacher in a confidential way i.e. you might wish to ask a question about a particular piece of work or ask about a particular method. Please bear in mind though that staff also have families of their own and will not be available 24/7 but they will respond as soon as possible. **This communication is not to be used to report absences or illness or if you have a complaint or something you are unhappy about. If this is the case then please communicate with us in person over the phone.** Children will be provided with two books to bring home: a square one (for Maths) and lined one for all other work along with some blank paper for any artwork. These books are to stay at home and when homework or remote learning is completed a photo just needs to be taken of it which you can load into your child's portfolio and then it can be marked by the teacher and feedback given.

### **How To Access Your Parent Account?**

Attached is a letter with your login details for Class Dojo. We would encourage you to sign up asap so that we are remote learning ready as a whole school. If you have more than one child in school, you will only have one login for all of your children for ease of access. You may add more than one e-mail address if more than one parent/carer would like to also access the platform for your child. Once you register your email address on the Class Dojo website, a link will be sent to school for approval. We will aim to approve and add you to our network as soon as possible. Once we have the majority of children linked to a parent account we will begin to use this system officially.

### **Confidentiality**

It is important to note that any feedback, praise or class rewards your child receives will remain confidential unless posted to the class story news feed. If individual rewards are given this will only be seen by your child or yourselves as will any messages sent between you and the class teacher.

### **Additional Support**

This method of learning is new to us and we don't doubt there will be some teething problems with the initial set up as staff get used to using this platform to its full potential! Please bear with us as it will be a learning curve for all staff as we are going to have to get our heads around this new use of technology and teaching remotely. We thank you as always for your continued support and adjustments to our ever-changing learning strategies due to the current situation we find ourselves in. If you do encounter any problems when registering/logging in or have any questions/concerns regarding Class Dojo please email Miss Hardy via [socialmedia@stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:socialmedia@stcuthbertsprimaryschool.co.uk) who will do her best to help you.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Steele (Acting Headteacher)



