



The Kite Academy Trust
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CEO: Mrs C Dickinson

11th February 2021

Dear Families,

We would like to thank you all for your support throughout this further lockdown. Staff have been working incredibly hard to ensure that children both in school and at home are continuing to learn through this time. We could not do this without your support – *thank you*.

Thank you too, to those of you who responded to our remote learning questionnaire. The results have been very positive and the majority of you feel that your academies are being highly supportive in responding to you. So many appreciative comments have been shared through this survey which further reinforce how much you have recognised the partnership between home and school. A summary of the results across the Trust is appended for your interest.

Just over a quarter of you felt that you would benefit from further support or information. Individual academies are looking at the detail of your requests and comments to see how this can best be met. It is interesting to conclude, though, that parent views – even in the same class in one school- can vary so widely! Possibly the strongest message of all is that, not surprisingly, your children are easily distracted at home. Children's motivation and enthusiasm for learning as the lockdown progresses is difficult to maintain and many of you are finding that this places challenging demands on your time. Talking to the teacher and their peers is known to support in these areas - we are hopeful that class catch-up sessions will be a significant support here. Initial feedback from those academies introducing See-Saw as a means of communication has shown that this is making a big difference to remote learning communication between home and school. Our infant academies (Cross Farm and Sandringham) are finding that Tapestry has also been highly effective for them.

A few further comments were received from parents identifying that technology continues being a barrier for remote learning. Please DO notify your school if this is still the case for your child/ren.

The last year has been different for us all and coming together to support each other has been essential. There are times when we all feel that we need to do more to support our families and particularly our children. Dr Alison D'Amario, the Educational Psychologist at Xavier Catholic Education Trust, has produced a short video with lots of ideas about how we can support our children (please see below). Our own Family Support Workers are continuing to provide support for our families through various activities. We have attached the timetable for the rest of the Spring Term. This includes workshops, Come & Ask sessions and virtual coffee mornings. If you are interested in any of these please do take advantage of them.

We would like to stress how important it is to advise your child's class teacher if they are unwell and unable to engage with class learning. Just as with 'normal' school, we have a responsibility to ensure that children are 'attending' - albeit at home. Teachers or the school office will call you if we haven't had contact for a few days to ensure that all is well at home. The phone numbers of staff working from home may well show that their number is withheld but please DO answer so that we can support you if we are able to. If we are concerned for families with whom we have had no contact for 4 days we will refer on to our Inclusion Welfare Officer to check that you and your family are safe and well.



We, like you, are waiting for the announcement from the government about whether we will be returning to school on the 8th March, whether this is everyone or different year groups and the guidance that we will need to work to once open. In our meeting with Michael Gove this week he confirmed that we would be told on 22nd February, which will give us two weeks to prepare.

We had said that we would do a further survey about continuing the arrangements for Friday afternoons, for the summer term, at half term. With the majority of children still not in school, we will wait in the hope that things are more settled after the 8th March.

We hope that you have a good half term week.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Dickinson

CEO

The Kite Academy Trust

The Kite
Academy
Trust

Flying high
together



Schools Alliance
for Excellence



Supporting the Emotional Well-being
of your Family During Lockdown

Dr Alison D'Amario
Educational and Child
Psychologist
Xavier Catholic Education Trust

Please click on the image above to watch the video

Save the Date!

On **Wednesday 10th March** at **6.30pm**, we are delighted to offer a parent session on how we deliver the Relationships, Sex and Health Education in our academies.

This area of our curriculum is taught as part of our PSHE curriculum using the Jigsaw scheme of work. The Kite Academy Trust is committed to working with families and believes that it is important to have the support of parents and the wider community for the PSHE and RSE programme. This parent session will give you a clear outline of the RSE programme for each year group as well as providing you with the opportunity to find out about and discuss specific aspects the RSE programme.

Details of how to join the remote session will be provided nearer the time.

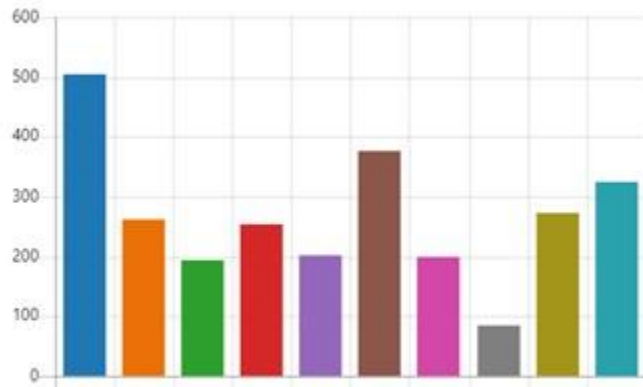


Kite Academy Trust Parent Questionnaire on Remote Learning

Summary for parents February 2021

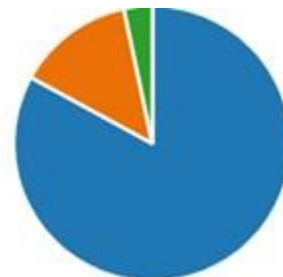
Q: Which areas of remote learning offer the most support for your child academically and emotionally? (tick all that apply)

Pre-recorded teaching videos	505
Examples of completed tasks	261
Additional videos to provide f...	194
Feedback given via your acad...	254
A suggested timetable from t...	201
Live catch up sessions	377
Phone calls from class teacher...	199
Assemblies	85
Stories - recorded or live	273
Practical activities away from a...	325



Q: Is the work set at an appropriate level of challenge for your child?

At the right level	551
Too challenging	91
Too easy	22



Q: Does your child manage to complete daily learning?

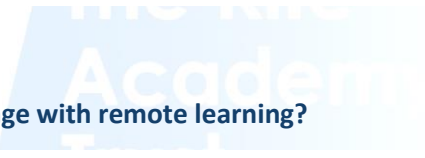
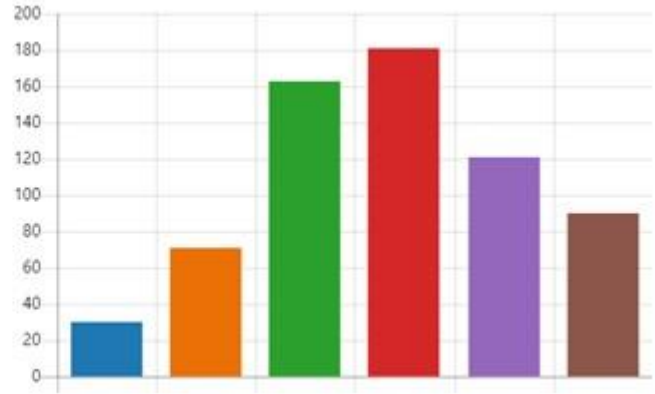
Yes	217
No	77
Mostly	280
Sometimes	90



Q: Approximately how many hours a day does it take your child to complete their home learning?

- 0 - 1 hours
- 1 - 2 hours
- 2 - 3 hours
- 3 - 4 hours
- 4 - 5 hours
- More than 5 hours

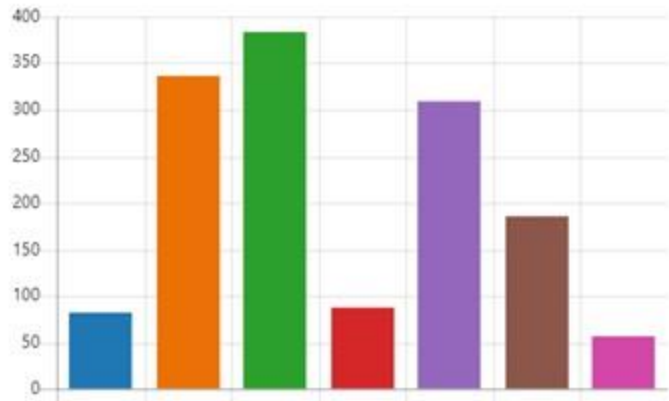
30
71
163
181
121
90



Q: Are there any barriers that create difficulties for your child to engage with remote learning?

- None
- Distractions in the home
- Lack of motivation/enthusiasm
- Technology
- Parental Time
- Independence
- Other

82
337
384
87
309
186
57





Spring Term 2021 Update

Kite Family Hub Update

Whilst we are unable to meet with families face-to-face in a way we would all like to at the moment, The Kite Family Hub team are continuing to look at ways we are able to support families across the Trust. Over recent weeks this has included:

- Supporting children's good attendance (both face-to-face and remotely) and helping families' engagement with school
- Holistic support at universal level (for all families) and Level 2/3 (supporting specific families), including multi-agency support
- Access to resources – including signposting families to other agencies and applying for funding on their behalf
- Co-ordinating support to provide resources for babies and children
- Helping families in need to access food vouchers and/or food parcels
- Supporting families in applying for Heathy Start vitamins
- Group and individual support for families in areas such as parenting; supporting behaviour at home; relationships within the home; signposting and delivering training and events for parents/carers; wellbeing; financial advice; transition support; support with school and transport applications; benefits and housing advice and support (including Free School Meals and uniform).

If you think your family would benefit from support from our team, please either discuss this with your child's academy or contact us at fsw@kite.academy.

Come & Ask Sessions

Our FSW team will be holding Come and Ask sessions fortnightly during the spring term. One-hour appointment slots are available every other Thursday morning between 9:00am and 1:30pm. All appointments are booked via Eventbrite using the below link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kite-fsw-come-ask-tickets-132099070877>

Dates for the rest of this term are:

Thursday 25th February 2021

Thursday 11th March 2021

Thursday 25th March 2021

If you would like to attend a Come and Ask session but are unable to do so on a Thursday morning, please contact fsw@kite.academy.

Parent/Carer Workshop

Routines to support children at home

This session will support parents and carers to understand the need for clear and consistent routines for children. We will explore how to set these up and implement them. Routine examples within the session will focus on the below but will be transferable to other elements of home life.

- mornings
- home learning
- bedtimes

Dates:

Monday 15th March 7:30pm – 8:30pm or

Tuesday 16th March 9:30am – 10:30am or

Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/routines-to-support-children-at-home-tickets-132104043751>

Virtual Coffee Mornings

Our virtual coffee mornings are an opportunity for you to pop in and have a chat to other local parents and carers, whilst enjoying a cuppa in the comfort of your own home. This is an opportunity to share and ask for advice on parenting issues or to just simply have a chat and see a friendly face. Staff from the Kite Family Hub will also be available to talk to.

To join the meeting, please use the below link at any point during the set dates. This will take you directly to the Microsoft Teams meeting. Initially, you will join a lobby and a member of the KFH team will admit you into the virtual coffee morning

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Dates - all sessions 9:30-10:30

- Thursday 4th March 2021
- Thursday 18th March 2021
- Thursday 1st April 2021

NEW EVENT

*Our virtual sessions are hosted on Microsoft Teams (Workshops are 'Live Events', all others are 'Teams Meetings').
You do not need a Microsoft account to be able to access the sessions.*