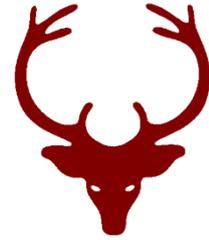


UPDATE 23.03.20



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thought for the day 'We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand'

Thank you to every one of our parents and children at being so supportive during this most difficult time. Your kind words and best wishes and gifts were so appreciated on Friday.

I would like to commend all my staff for all their efforts and I would like to thank all the parents and children for the good start they have made on all the home learning tasks. The teachers are really appreciating all the feedback and communications.

Please keep in touch and let us know how you are getting on and be assured we will continue to do our best to support you.

Can I also give a big thank you to Claire Hartswood-Collier for buying all the children a crème egg on Friday and to the PTFA and Charlotte Farrington for providing all the mum's with their mother's day gifts. I'm sure everyone was lifted by these generous gestures. It's heart warming how everyone has pulled together and not one person, staff, nor parent nor child, has been difficult or unpleasant in these most challenging of times. This is not true of all school communities and just shows how very special you all are.

To reiterate the Governments advice, children should only be in school if they are unsafe at home or your work as parents is critical:



What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

Your child's learning is of course important to us, so we'll continue to help your child to learn.

- Homelearning Packs were sent home on Friday – if you didn't receive yours please telephone the school office to arrange collection of these
- Other homelearning activities continue to be posted on the schools website and/or via parent mail by class teachers
- <https://www.richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk/teaching-learning/learning-zone/>
- Phonics support at home: The website Phonics Play have announced that they are supporting families in this difficult time. There are interactive games, resources and support for parents on the site. It's a fantastic site which we use in school.

<https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Username: march20

Password: home

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please don't hesitate to do so via email or feel free to telephone us. Please all look after yourselves and adhere to the Governments advice so we can all get through this as quickly as possible. Once we are back to normal I guarantee I will do everything within my power to make up for the lost time and experiences, we will all be ok.

Kindest regards and loads of love,

Kay Hanson

Headteacher

Top Tips to establishing a balanced learning routine at home

Routines will be important. Here are some suggested ideas to help families create a happy learning routine at home. Please note these are just ideas and you can arrange your routines as suit you and depending on your circumstance.

How can I get them to behave the same as they do at school?

Sit down as a whole family and agree on some ground rules that work for you all. Use the school motto as a starting point: Together Everyone Achieves More

Agree on the physical space where they will learn (e.g. kitchen/dining room table), the physical space where you need to work and spaces where they can play

Agree on what they will need and use to learn (pencils, colouring pencils, paper etc)

What will a typical day look like?

It will be important and tricky to keep some of the school routines at home and that your children understand that being at home during the period that school is closed is not the same as being on holiday.

Create a family timetable. Keep it simple. Here are some ideas to help you create a timetable.

1. Daily, short, independent tasks, such as every day...
 - Encourage your child to read for 10-20mins
 - Encourage your child to practise their handwriting (copying something into their handwriting) for 10-20mins
 - Encourage your child to practice counting (anything- lego bricks, small toys) / doing number bonds, doing Times Table Rock Stars for 10-20 mins
 - Daily reflective diary to record thoughts and feelings during this time (10-20mins)

2. Some longer daily tasks that might need a bit of parent support (20 mins to 1 hour – depending on the age and concentration of the children)
 - Use the ideas from the school website in the learning zone to start a piece of writing
 - Try some maths challenges

3. And then identify some chunks of time (about an hour) on different days to start work on a project
 - Investigating something related to the history/geography topic
 - Trying a science challenge at home. Here is a really good link <https://www.science-sparks.com/summer-science-challenges/>
 - Drawing/painting
 - Making a model
 - GANAS style projects

Make sure there is time built in for breaks, lunch, play, physical activity, creativity and social activity

Here some ideas that could help with these vital aspects of time away from directed learning tasks:

- Mindfulness, wellbeing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shR8DLyOkcg>)
- Lots and lots Play (outside in the garden, inside with lego, cars, dolls, bricks, play dough, board games, cards- encourage siblings to play together, jigsaw puzzles)
- Daily dance
- Daily singing
- Mindful colouring in
- Daily call/face time to family and friends
- Musical instrument practice
- Indoor gymnastic/warm up stretches/yoga

- Cooking/baking/gardening
- Outside walk, respecting social distancing measures