



5<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so sorry that school has had to close again. However, we feel more positive than last time because hopefully this will be for a shorter term and we know now that once the children return, we will be able to quickly build on the progress made and all will be ok in the long run. We hope you and all your families stay well and we thank you for all your messages of support, understanding and kindness.

During this period of national lockdown, we should only allow vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend. Children with at least one parent or carer who are listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place. It is not necessary for both parents to be critical workers. The government guidance is clear that children should be kept at home where possible and this provision is in place for those children who 'absolutely need to attend.' As I am sure you are aware, this is in place to limit the spread of the virus, keep people safe and reduce pressure on our NHS.

Thank you to all parents who checked the list and returned our form sent yesterday. To those parents who have not sent us your responses, please could you do so, even if it is a no you do not need a device and no you do not need a place. This will help us confirm if you have received our messages and help us update our records.

Reminders to those who are in school:

- Strictly adhere to our operational plan and risk assessment
- Do not send your children to school if they have symptoms or they are unwell
- Report absence in the usual way
- We will be able to offer a hot meal/jacket potato or school sandwich choice
- Please dress your children appropriately for the cold weather, they will be playing outside, and it is cooler in doors

Reminders to those working remotely:

Your child's class teacher will be in touch via the usual channels: Parent Mail, Class Dojo, Google Classroom or the Learning Zone area of the school website to let you know how to access the home learning. In the meantime, please remember these principles: You are not qualified teachers and the children will not necessarily respond to you in the way they do with us. Therefore, do not put unnecessary pressure on yourself. Just do your best, it will be good enough and remember to be kind to yourself if you are juggling home learning, childcare and work, it is a lot. Stay in touch with class teachers for feedback and support. **We have physical packs for you to pick up from school that include learning and reading books. When you come, please can you return any reading material you have so we can give this to other children.**

### 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 information provided by your child's class teacher from their Google classroom, or class Dojo or from the learning zone

3. Then, identify some chunks of time (about an hour) on different days to either start work on a project, from their set tasks or create your own based on your own interest/hobbies

- 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/craft activities
- 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 (colouring in, doodling, listening to music)
- 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 exercise
- Daily dance
- Daily singing
- 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

If you want to get in touch to share any concerns, please do not 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