

28th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

At the end of the first week of home schooling, we are hearing mixed reviews of how it is going. It seems that, unless you are a teacher, it is really difficult to decide which resources are really helpful to aid home learning as there are so many available.

Those staff who have not been in school teaching this week, have been working on providing good resources for learning, which can support you. We have added a really good, basic maths scheme, for daily lessons, this week (and other links) on to the website. We ask that every child does the maths daily. Please don't feel that you have to just do a worksheet, however.

At the end of the week, the children at school, who were working on fractions of shapes, cut them out of buttered toast and ate them as a mid-morning snack. A child working on terms 'empty', 'almost full', etc made labels and poured four cups of drink, which were then shared. These activities took a matter of minutes and were either followed by the worksheet or preceded by it. Worksheets, alone, are not as good as real-life experiences – the reason why we don't use them a lot at school so do try to back up the learning, if you can, or talk about it.

We have developed a simple timetable for the mornings at school. They look a bit like this:

- Read to an adult
- Short spelling/ phonics activity
- Exercise routine (using websites)
- Writing task
- Play activities outside
- Maths task: based on the recommended site (see above)

The afternoons have been freer - playing games and a variety of other fun learning activity, including gardening, art, etc. Conversations with adults will improve children's language skills and develop their knowledge so do keep going and enjoy the time with your children, when you can.

We anticipate adding a literacy resource to do each day, after Easter, so that there is a bit more structure for everyone and we can all work in parallel without it becoming overly complicated. I am anxious that these resources are available to you early, in case the teaching staff become ill at the same time, making it difficult for us to manage the website.

On another subject, during this period of partial closure the school site continues to be open to provide for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. Irrespective of any partial closure or collaboration with another school, the safeguarding of all our children remains our top priority. If anyone has any questions, regarding this, they are asked to make contact with the school via email or telephone.

The driving principle, stated by the DfE, is that children remain at home, if it is safe to do so. This is supported by medical advice to avoid spread of the disease. We do really miss the children and send our best wishes to you and them.

Take care.

Fiona

Fiona Mullett
Head teacher