

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that things have gone well for you all over the last couple of weeks. It has been really strange at school with just a few children and we miss our normal days. Hopefully, you are managing to balance the needs of your children along with your other daily tasks. I'm sure that they will have enjoyed the time you have been able to spend with them.

The teaching staff have created more, bespoke documents and guidance, to support home schooling for the next half-term. We anticipate that we will remain partially closed for some time longer and that most people will continue to be asked to remain at home to stay safe and avoid the spread of disease.

We ask that **all** children use:

- <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/> daily maths lesson – to keep us all on the same track
- <https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/> just for literacy each day

AND:

- Read to an adult daily and talk about what has been read
- Be read to each day
- Spellings or phonics practised each day
- <https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/classroom-resources/problems/> - an additional maths problem to challenge thinking, for those who are able. There are key stage one and two resources

Our website has specific learning for each class so that children don't miss out on topic learning, which includes a range of subjects. We use such themes because they help children to link knowledge and build on this to develop understanding. Research evidence, about children's education, supports this approach. There are also other mini-topics for afternoon study both for younger and older children.

We have avoided using IT, other than the website, texts and emails, for several reasons. These include:

- Experiences from China during the COVID-19 crisis suggested that any systems which were not already being used regularly, between schools and homes, failed to work
- Not all families are able to use IT at set times due to the need to share computers or demands on wi-fi
- Evidence suggests that virtual schooling is difficult to deliver effectively, especially for primary aged children (particularly the younger pupils)
- Any sickness of staff may cause more complicated systems to fail, as they may be 'unmanned' especially with the numbers of personnel in a small school

Thank you for all the encouragement we have received. As I write this, the staff (and their families) are well and have raced to prepare, in case any of us becomes sick. We really want to support you all and miss contact with you and your lovely children – please send our love to them and ensure that they know that they are not forgotten.

I send you my very best wishes for a Happy and healthy Easter.

Fiona