

16th June 2020

Dear Parents

I have just picked up a comment, from a website on parenting, that says ‘... many parents have been really hard on themselves and over self-critical during this very difficult time.’ This is something, I too, experience but as a head teacher. It has been extremely hard to spin all the plates thrown in my direction and I find myself worrying about all the Harting children often. Not the parenting, I hasten to add (although we have added a ‘Parenting in a Pandemic’ site and information about a parenting course to our website)!

As time carries on and some of the children have been back to school for two weeks, I imagine that home schooling is wearing thin for many who are juggling work with their children’s needs. I am therefore currently looking at the feasibility of increasing our numbers, hence last week’s letter.

We are pleased to have been able to open fully to eligible year groups, unlike all primary schools. Before opening to others, the governing body are clear that we must balance the risks of available zones with levels of staffing very carefully. Everyone, including staff, need to feel that it is safe. If you are still planning to send your child back, who is currently eligible, **I urge you to let us know soon as possible**. We do not have a list of parents’ careers to contact key workers directly.

Whilst some children remain at home, we thought it might be helpful to remind you of the resources available. We have deliberately not set a timetable because we do not know your household and work routines. Should you wish for more direction and structure, the government funded national academy (Oak Academy) does provide some structured learning with virtual lessons. You will find their website on all the home learning pages, including Summer 2.

Unlike some of the very large primaries, we do not have an IT department, or big bank of staff, to deliver virtual lessons ourselves. We still await the e-learning platform, offered by the government, so continue to ask that emailed work is sent by midday on a Wednesday. Your child’s teacher will let you know if they need it earlier – they are now all teaching each day, rather than on a regular rota.

- White Rose maths provides a very solid basis for daily maths learning so please do continue to encourage your child to use this
- Daily spelling practice or phonics resources are on the website, with lists of words, in our home learning section for each class. See if your child can use these in the context of a sentence correctly. If these seem to be becoming easy, dictate a paragraph or ask your child to self-correct spellings in their own writing
- It is good for your child to write something each day. Use either the Hamilton plans or the topic/project suggestions, to provide reasons to write, if there is no relevant activity at home to write about
- Continue with reading every day to inspire writing. It helps develop children’s language and vocabulary, along with their general knowledge to aid other learning

- Topic ideas and the mini-projects are aimed to stimulate a range of other learning. We have added some additional websites, which are really interesting for KS2 pupils to tap into. They should widen thinking and can be found at the bottom of the Summer 2 page

Thank you for all that you are doing with your children at home. My heart goes out to those of you who are juggling childcare and work. I know that the teachers have been really impressed with some of the learning, that has been shared, and they love the zoom conversations.

I will keep you posted regarding any decisions about further year groups joining us. In the meantime, please let the children know that we miss them all.

Take care

Fiona