

School update - Monday March 23rd - parents and children

Dear Parents and children,

Welcome to the new 'normal' (well for a while anyway) and we hope you are all safe and well. This is for all year groups as the school year has not finished for anyone (and when you return to school, which you will, the children need to be ready to learn and have good habits).

As time progresses I will send you a daily e-mail (Monday to Friday) of ideas and challenges for you to complete. Please don't send anything to school unless we ask you.

Thankfully the list of people who class themselves as 'key' workers has drastically reduced (it still needs to reduce even more) and the VERY important message is that you don't send your children to school unless you have absolutely exhausted every avenue (changing working hours/other arrangement for care/flexibility with partner). **If you are working from home your child should be with you.**

We have a very rich source of information about parents from social media etc and if we found that you have sent your children to school (risking lives) when you had alternatives then your child's place would be terminated immediately.

For those who are playing a crucial, vital and important role in fighting the virus and it's impact then we will 'do our bit' to assist in any way (staff have volunteered for this putting themselves and their families at risk). In comparison with other local schools this will probably only be between 2 and 5 children on any given day.

Please be prepared as we envisage schools closing to all pupils in the near future (there is no advice as to what happens than as yet).

Working from home

- Teachers will be posting work and ideas on the school website later today (these will be open ended activities and ideas). Please do not send any work in as it won't be marked or returned. If a member of staff is not on child care duty in school then they are at home safe with their families.

- Parents - you need to construct a timetable for your children to establish routine and a sense of purpose. Remember that working 1:1 or in small groups is very intense and not sustainable for long periods (in school we talk about childrens' listening skills being their age + 2 minutes !).

Home working helpful hints:

Get dressed !

Step out of the door and back in to give a sense of going to work or school.

Define a place for working (not a bedroom as that is a place of rest).

Take breaks at the same time as school (10:40 - 10:55 break/12 - 1pm = lunch/2pm - 2:15pm break and work until 3 pm only, maybe 2pm if it is quite intense).

10 minutes handwriting practise a day is good (little and often is better) - it isn't just copying letters but is fine motor skills as well (more info to follow tomorrow).

20 minutes reading per day - 'paired' reading aloud either with a sibling or yourself (and you read to model) so you can hear the reading. Ask questions about the characters and story line as well as 'what do you think will happen next ?

Daily challenge for this week - either through the window or going out into the garden. What do you notice about the changes as Spring is arriving ? There is also the 'what birds can you see and record ?'

Art ideas (bit American but good) - some good ideas for each day or weekly. Don't do them all at once. Sewing (if you have the kit) is also excellent for fine motor skills.

Online resources - limit screen time daily for work and pleasure. Teachers will forward websites we subscribe to. There are also on-line ideas for yoga, PE challenges and the toilet roll 'keepy up' challenge !

Please look on the school website as well as our Twitter feed for ideas (I retweet good ideas).

Try something new - personally I am going to try to learn to play the guitar as I have always wanted to do it but don't get the time and I am going to have a go at the toilet roll 'keepy up' challenge (see Twitter).

More tomorrow

Regards

Mr Batstone

Attachments

[Art ideas.jpg](#)