

Dear parents

You will have received a few requests for information from us regarding your access to internet. This is to allow us to set up, to the best of our ability, learning opportunities for children online. This is quite unprecedented and although the technology is there, we appreciate how difficult it might be. Teachers will be sending out home packs tomorrow, these will contain jotters, pencils, workbooks and any relevant login details etc.

However, I know many of you will be worried about home schooling - please try not to stress too much. Please remember that school is a unique environment and even at school, children are not sitting in front of jotters from 9am to 3pm. They are socialising, learning outdoors, through art, music, drama and play. Please don't expect them, or you, to be doing school work all day. A good rule of thumb would be up to an hour over the day for little ones and between one and two hours for older children. Remember a lot of the little ones learning comes from play – sound hunts, number hunts, I spy games and even asking your children to follow a 1, 2 or 3 step instruction.

This again will depend on what is happening in your house, for your family, on any given day. You might be sick, they might be sick, you all might be scared and worried. So, no one needs the whole family fighting over whether your child is doing their school work. By all means encourage them to do work that is set by teachers, or that you can access through the sites we'll share but spend time with them, listening, cuddling and reassuring. This is a worrying time for children too who will be picking up on how adults are feeling. Nobody learns when they are not relaxed.

We will be providing learning opportunities via our online methods, Glow and SeeSaw. Remember Glow can be accessed via any device including Xbox.

If I could advise one thing, it would be to encourage them to read, read to them and with them, lots! Listen to stories online, or watch stories e.g. CBeebies bedtime stories. Teachers will give you ideas of questions to ask before, during and after reading stories. Watch nature or science programmes. Let your child investigate or research something that really interests them, this will provide a deep learning experience if they are really interested in a topic. Play board games: skills developed include, turn taking, listening and talking, number and counting and strategy and... they'll love spending that time with you. Play Lego, colour in, bake or make the lunch or dinner together, do a puzzle and try to have some structure to their day.

Teachers will send a pack home for each child tomorrow. If your child is not in school, these can be collected from school between 1.30pm and 3.30pm tomorrow or they can be sent home with a friend if you let us know who.

I wish you all the best in the coming weeks, we are all in this together and we will support you all the best we can. Take care of you and yours.

Best wishes



Annemarie Sands