

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for everything that you are doing to support home learning. It does look as though we will be in this for a long time yet so we want to help. I understand that this is an incredibly difficult and anxious time for families as you try to juggle the competing demands of home-school, work and family life.

You will know that the government has stepped up the demand in terms of how much learning the children should do when they are not at school. The national benchmark is set at a minimum of three hours for Key Stage 1 and four hours for Key Stage 2. That is a lot of learning, especially if you have other demands at home, so we want to make everything as simple as possible, especially for older children who should be able to do most of the work independently. Try as far as possible to stick to the routine of a school day: a couple of hours in the morning, a break for lunch and then some more work in the afternoon. Short breaks will make everything more manageable, especially if children are able to run and play outside as they would in school. Remember that children do not have a teacher by their side in class so it is absolutely fine to expect them to work on their own as far as possible. Obviously this is much harder for the little ones but we are still trying to make the work easy to access.

One of the best ways to start the week, is to tune in to the Zoom on a Monday. This gives the children a chance to see friends and to know that we are all in this together. It is also the opportunity for the teacher to set the expectation for the children and to troubleshoot any issues that they are seeing on Seesaw.

Another way to help the children is to spend a short amount of time at the beginning of the day, listing the work to be done. This is very similar to what happens in school when the teacher sets out the timetable for the day. We need the children to do all of the tasks set, just as they do in school. This is important because it means that we can assess the learning, give positive feedback and work out what your child needs to learn next. If work isn't uploaded it is much harder for the teacher to build a strong relationship with your child and set work at the right level.

The children are doing very well and we know that home learning is a tall order. That said, we really must encourage your child to work hard because we don't want anyone to fall behind. Teachers and teaching assistants will be phoning you to offer support and see that everything is in place to help your child. Sometimes a gentle chat with someone from school is all that is needed to get children back on track so please let us know if you are facing an uphill struggle so that someone can speak to your child.

We seem to have ironed out any problems with log-ins or electronic devices but if you need to borrow an iPad, we still have a few available. We are also busy collating new packs and buying new books in case the lockdown continues after the half term so you shouldn't be short of resources.

Once again I would like to thank you for the valuable job you are doing by protecting your child's education. The school community is a treasured resource so please encourage each other to keep going!

Best wishes,

Mrs Galloway