

23rd March 2020

To all parents,

At this time of huge uncertainty it is very important for the children to have some sense of routine as that will help them to feel safe and secure. This is very important as social distancing is a fact of life for the foreseeable future. Phone contact with their friends is beneficial whilst personal contact should be avoided.

We would recommend that you establish a routine which works for the family whereby the children are clear of what is expected at certain times of the day. For the next couple of weeks this could, for example, be as follows:

At 9:00am daily Joe Wicks is posting an on-line keep fit session for children shown on YouTube. This would start their day with activity. Perhaps then to sit quietly and complete one of the tasks set for the week and some practise of spellings and tables/number. Reading over coffee time with you, then playing in the garden for a while if the weather is pleasant. After lunch to settle to some independent project work before playing a dice or board game.

This sense of structure to the day will help the children and you to get through the coming weeks more easily. It will also really help the children when we transition back to school and normal life when that happens. After the Easter break we will be posting work on Tuesday 21st then on each following Monday morning between 8:30am and 9:00am which will give daily tasks and a weekly project for the children to continue their learning while at home.

Please also think about the learning you can share with your children in a way which teachers cannot do with a class of 30 or more. Spend time really looking closely at plants in the garden, at their shape and structure, and encourage your child to draw them as accurately as possible; talk about the cooking and the way the recipes are written, and think about the science of cooking; which foods must be cooked and which can be eaten raw – what are their favourites and have they tried something new; spending individual time on writing and letter formation – can they improve their handwriting and make it more fluent, they could be copying a story not having to write from their imagination to do this; use number and maths in practical ways – doubling and halving recipes, games, counting objects as they sort their toys; Lego and other construction toys help expand the children's imagination. Please remember that it is recommended that children should not be spending huge amounts of time on game consoles or watching endless DVDs or television, and it is important to monitor what they are accessing (please be particularly vigilant about the age recommendations on games as many they access are not suitable for the age of the children).

The children will be able to ask their teacher questions via the chatroom on the VLE. Their teacher will let them know at what time each day they will log in to answer them. Please note that this is for the children to ask if they are unsure, not for parents to contact the teachers. (Obviously we do understand that YR and some Y1 children will need adult help to do this.)

We are still vetting website addresses and will post some later today and others over the coming days. We hope that these will be helpful.

We will keep in touch with you over the coming weeks and thank you for your support of the school as we all try to create the best possible outcome for the children in these difficult times.

Mrs Tamlyn