

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin this newsletter by thanking you all for your positive messages of support. These are very difficult times for everyone, and the staff and I are really appreciative of your very positive responses to the work being set for the children. As I mentioned in the last newsletter schools are required to provide at least three to four hours per day of meaningful learning covering all areas of our curriculum, and are also held accountable for the progress the children make during their learning at home. We do understand that many of you are supporting your children whilst working from home, and so we have ensured that the learning is accessible at any time. We are also making every effort to present these learning activities in a way such that your children, and those on site, can attempt them independently. They are the curriculum which the children would usually be learning at this time. I am sure you are learning new things along with your children!

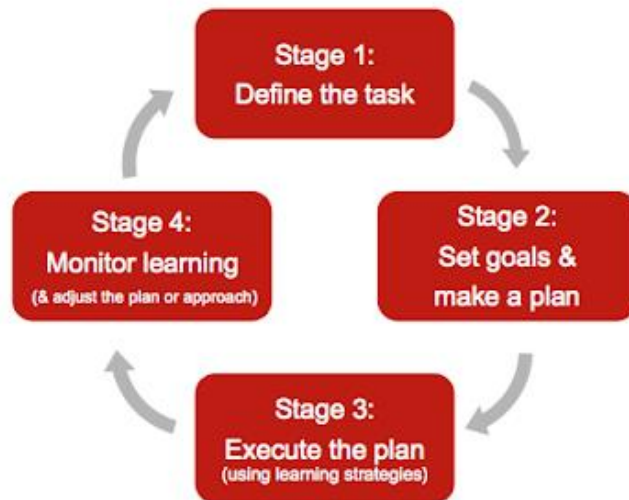
Online safety is an understandable concern for us all at this time. Please do take the time to check that you have parental controls installed in order to protect your child as much as possible from being exposed to inappropriate content online. You may find the following site useful to visit – it provides a range of activities around internet safety to do as a family

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=c96a649dde-TUK GLOBAL 12 11 20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-c96a649dde-55148469](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=c96a649dde-TUK GLOBAL 12 11 20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-c96a649dde-55148469)

You may also wish to check that your children are not interacting inappropriately if they are playing on-line or console games. Please do also check the age guidance, as many of these games have content which is unsuitable for children of primary school age. Thank you for your help in this matter – some children have spoken to the staff about games they are playing at home which we know are unsuitable for primary age children.

Learning at home can create many challenges. Below are some suggestions which may be helpful:

- Stick to a timetable/routine if you can. Learning posted on the VLE mirrors what would have been your child's timetable in school where possible, and this structure is what the children are used to.
- Make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas! (You may even like to consider learning time clothes then play clothes.)
- Designate a working space if possible – a flat surface on which to rest their work as required and preferably relatively quiet.
- At the end of the 'day' have a clear cut-off to signal 'school' learning time is over.
- Encourage your children to manage their timetable where possible. This is an opportunity for them to improve their time-management skills, and it will give them ownership.
- Check in with your children and encourage them to keep to the timetable, but be flexible. If a task/activity is going well and they want more time, let it extend where possible.
- In school we encourage the children to develop their self-regulation – please see the diagram:



The children may find some tasks challenging, and it is important to remember that it is OK to get it wrong. If so, remind them that we use our growth mind-set to move forward by trying something else, not dissolve and give up! Remember they can send a question to their teacher.

- If you have more than one child at home, you may wish to consider combining their timetables. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your family dynamic.
- It may be helpful to make a family weekly planner for display so that everyone knows what is happening and so what they should be doing when.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life.

We thank you for your support. We know that you are all doing your best in these difficult times.

The Government have today announced that they will give schools notice two weeks prior to the return for all children. As soon as we have any details, or indeed information regarding the proposed phased return plan, we will let you know. It may well be that it will be broadcast and released in an announcement at the same time for schools and parents – as the lockdown was! As yet there is no real indication as to when this will be, but we are anticipating mid-February.

I would like to bring to your attention that if your circumstances have been adversely affected by the pandemic and you are in need, then do contact Buckinghamshire Helping Hands either by phone on 01296 531151 or by e-mail to [helpinghands@buckingshire.gov.uk](mailto:helpinghands@buckingshire.gov.uk). They will be able to direct you to support which is available. As a school we follow the DfE guidance and are supporting those families who have notified us of their situation and whose children qualify for free school meals.

In other news....

The new roof on YR classroom is now completed and is looking very beautiful; and most importantly it has proven itself to be water and wind proof.

The bulbs by the sensory garden and at the front of the school are already putting up green shoots, which reminds us that Spring will come. Thank you Y6 for planting these.

It has been lovely to see some parents of our YR and KS1 parents today as you collected the reading books.

I have been kept informed of some lovely work which the children are completing. Well done children – we are proud of you.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher