

26th March 2020

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had a good week and have been able to access the google classroom activities and WhatsApp activities for children in Wrens class.

Our school remains open for some children and I am grateful that our staff team have all pulled together to ensure that for those children attending they have an enjoyable time. Like you at home one of their activities has been drawing rainbows. We have enjoyed looking at all of the photos you have sent in of your rainbow pictures at home. For many the rainbow is a symbol of hope, I know that we are all hoping this period of uncertainty will end soon. Please display your rainbow pictures in windows, they will help to bring a smile to people as they pass your house.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to grow apace, we are all working to balance our many responsibilities to our families, our work and our communities. As a school community we are keen to support as much as we are able to and I know you will want to help too. We heard this week that the Food Bank is closing. We know that this is an invaluable help for many of our families. We are still going to try to continue to provide food for those families and are now taking donations of food, we will have a box outside the school office (Mondays-Fridays) for people to leave donations and we will distribute food on Mondays.

Thank you to all of you who have been supporting children with Google Classroom and virtual learning. Teachers have received lots of great feedback and we can see that most children have engaged with their home learning. Do contact school if you are having difficulties accessing the activities. Teachers and children have been able to communicate with each other about their learning, I am sure this will prove to be an invaluable way to stay connected over the coming weeks. As we all know having a routine to follow is important for children and I know that lots of you have tried to build this into your first week at home. We have seen photos of children making their own work area and naming their own "home school", please continue to send photos in, we will try and publish as many as we can on our school website.

Each week we will have staff in school so please do ring if we can be of help or if you would like to talk. Staff working at home will be responding to children as they return work to their teachers as well as continuing to plan and set new learning activities.

Keep safe and well.

Deborah Nind
Headteacher



10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.

