



23rd March 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, thank you to the whole community during these challenging times. Children, parents and staff are all playing their part to ensure that learning continues. I can see that many children have been online today, completing the tasks set and it has also been great to hear about the additional fun you have had doing different activities, with some children keen to support parents at home with chores – brilliant!

I thought it would be helpful to answer some frequently asked questions relating to the online materials ...

Q. How do we stay safe online?

A. Through our weekly computing lessons, the children have learnt about the importance of keeping themselves safe online; you may find the poster, at the bottom of this email, a helpful resource to remind the children of these lessons.

For those children accessing Google Classroom via a chromebook using their school login – the filtering system is the same as at school. The system in use is a robust cloud based solution. Broad categories of websites are blocked by default, and we have a set of approximately 1800 keywords that are flagged up to the school. Blocked keywords and searches are recorded on a user basis and breaches are reported to me (as headteacher) on a regular basis. However, it is important to note that we never leave children unsupervised when accessing the internet, as no filtering system can ever be 100% secure. In school, staff visually monitor the children's access. I strongly suggest that you do this at home to safeguard your children.

For those children accessing Google Classroom via devices other than a chromebook – the filtering system is the system you have set up at home. Again, I would strongly suggest that you do not leave your child unsupervised whilst online.

Q. How much work should my child complete online?

A. I strongly suggest you time bond the online learning with lots of breaks and rewards in between. At school, children receive a 10-15 minute whole class input where the teacher is modelling a concept followed with the children carrying out an activity for 20-30 minutes. With this in mind, I would suggest working online in 20-30 minute blocks of time.

Q. What do I do if my child is struggling with some of the work?

A. Use the additional resources given such as: the 'wagoll' which shows **What A Good One Looks Like**; video clips; and parent help sheets. If your children are continuing to struggle, stop and inform their class teacher via email so they can give further help. I have added the direct contact details at the bottom of this email.

Q. When should we receive feedback from the teacher?

A. We know that feedback is important and helps motivate the children. Where possible, the teaching team have given answer sheets so that you can give your child feedback. The teaching team will be doing their best to give feedback within 24 hours however please be aware that the teaching team are also part of the cover team in school. Please be aware that there are some tasks that will be set (e.g. go for a walk and discuss the nature you see) that will not require feedback.



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Q. How can we maintain motivation and enthusiasm?

A. As you know, the children thrive on positive feedback. You may want to start your own Family Wide Reward (FWR) system where by every time a family member completes a task, chore or activity, a FWR is given. Once ten are achieved, the family has a treat such as family dance time, favourite board game etc. Other ideas could include: stickers, certificates and make your own gold leaves.

Finally, let's all keep looking after each other, showing kindness and spreading happiness. As I told my son (who was finding things tricky this morning) ... 'when you are old like me, Jack, your children will be learning about this in their history lessons. You will tell your children about the time your school was closed, how you were taught at home and how your Mum had to look at the cupboard and make up recipes with the ingredients she had!' He laughed and went off to run around the garden.

Take care of yourselves and keep in touch.

Best wishes,
Kareen O'Brien