

## **Support with home learning**

Dear families,

We are very aware that you all face the challenge, once again, of trying to organise home learning. We really do appreciate that many of you are trying to do this at the same time as working from home yourselves. Thank you for all of your efforts.

This time round, there is much more of an emphasis on the children receiving teaching alongside activities to do. The teachers will be giving feedback to selected pieces of work which will offer the chance for children to move their learning forward and make progress. Children are expected to do the work given and to watch the video lessons and although teachers will be keeping track of who has done the work, there is flexibility in when the children do it. Children at home are completing the same work as those in school. We know that many families are sharing devices among siblings, of which the secondary children have set times to be online so any work completed may well be done later in the day. As you know, work will be set on Seesaw with links to other websites also given. Communication will continue to come via 'School Ping'.

There are a number of resources online to guide you through the issues around home learning but we have gathered some together which we feel most useful.

Our top tips would be:

- Routine is key. Choose what is best for your family and try to stick as close to it as possible.
- Create a timetable for the day – include plenty of rest breaks, snack time, lunch, talk time.
- Plan for your child/ren to work at a time suitable to your family – children may need to share devices so wouldn't all be able to work at the same time. Some children work best in the morning, some in the afternoon – it is up to you how you divide the time up.
- It is best if your child gets dressed – this helps them be in the mind-set for working.
- Try to find a space for them to work – even if it just a different seat, make it different to the one they would sit to relax in. This helps the mind separate work and play.
- Avoid having the tv on while they are working.
- Get outside at some point in the day – e.g. go for a lunchtime walk. This will really help your child's frame of mind.
- Talk to your child...about anything and everything. Don't make it all about school work.
- Offer the chance for them to be in touch with a friend whether it is to discuss work or not.
- Do not allow yourself to feel pressured into having to 'teach' them all day long. Go easy on yourself.
- Choose your battles – if they are upset or resistant about something, allow them to move onto something else or maybe have a break.
- Offer lots of opportunities for books/magazines – this may be them reading their own books, you reading to them, listening to audio books or even listening to people reading stories on YouTube or BBC iplayer/CBeebies – there are many to choose, such as this one:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6E67n1vZZiQ>
- From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, CBBC is offering 3 hours of primary educational programmes. It is unclear yet as to what exactly they are offering but they are likely to be a useful extension to the work set by teachers. The Oak Academy have an extremely detailed content of lessons for every year group.

The following is a link to some excellent videos offering tips and hints on how to support your child with remote learning along with how to help with their maths and their reading at home.

<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/homeschooling-help-videos/>

# 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1 **Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)**



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2 **Ask your child lots of questions**



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3 **Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read**



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4 **Ask your child to summarise what they have read**



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5 **Ask your child to write about what they have read**



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6 **Read and discuss reading with friends or family**



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7 **Maintain the motivation to read**



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'