



25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and are managing to adjust to the new way of life we all now have. As this week has gone along and advice / direction from the government has changed, I just wanted to update you. There are a few changes we are making to how we initially set out to work during this difficult time.

### **Home Learning**

A week ago I thought it might be possible that schools would be shut for an extra two weeks over the Easter period. The length of time we will now be at home is currently unknown but is certainly going to be longer than that. None of us expected / planned to be in this unusual situation and I am aware that many of you will be juggling home learning alongside working from home, which is super stressful. I love teaching other people's children and love my own children. However, teaching a class of 30 children is much easier than teaching my own two boys at home!! We need to be kind to ourselves and have realistic expectations.

This is an unprecedented situation for us all, we are all learning to adapt and trying to make it work for us and our own families. There are lots of things going around on social media at the moment on how to do this, here are some tips I have found that I hope you find useful, -

- Remember 1 to 1 work will take less time than learning in class.
- Have a plan / timetable for the day – make sure you include at least one form of exercise in this (e.g. Joe Wicks PE lesson at 9am; Couch to 5K or a walk). I have devised a tick list of tasks for my two boys so that they can clearly see the 'jobs' they need to do each day.
- Do what feels right for you. Our families are all different and what works for one family will not work for another family.
- In your plan include times for your own work / down time.
- Have a clear end to the 'school' day.
- Make sure the weekend and the Easter holiday is different. Although I'm not sure how we will do this, other than there being an absence of school work! We are considering putting our (extremely underused until now) tent up in the garden!

Ideally we would like all children to complete, -

- 1 or 2 pages a day from the Maths book
- 1 or 2 pages a day from the English book
- 1 comprehension a week
- Continue to practice spellings (these are available on the school websites)
- Read regularly (hopefully daily)
- Write regularly, e.g. a letter to a relative, a diary, a story, a report...

Class teachers are also emailing other ideas for you to use, these are suggestions, if you would like to do something else please do that, if you are happy doing the above only please do that.

We know that some families will want to be given lots of suggestions of tasks to do and other families will feel overwhelmed by this. As I have already said, the emails are to give you



suggestions, if your child/ren have a particular interest you want to follow please do that. For example, this afternoon my son has baked brownies, taking photographs as he did this. Tomorrow he will write instructions to make the brownies, using the photographs to illustrate them. Although, the destruction that happened in my kitchen I am not sure I would advise this to others!!

You might have wanted to learn a new skill, e.g. sign language, but have never had time to do it before. This is your opportunity to do that.

Alongside the ideas teachers are sending you, many educational companies are providing access to their resources for free. Tomorrow (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>) I will be putting these resources onto a 'Home Learning' page on Long Lane's website, please follow the link below to access this, -

<https://www.longlane.derbyshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/>

If you hear of any useful links / ideas please let me know and I will add them to the page.

The most important thing is that at the end of this difficult time we are healthy and still enjoy spending time with our families!!

### **Marking the Work**

Initially we had asked you to drop the workbooks off at school every other week. Following the announcement by the PM Boris Johnson on Monday evening we will no longer be doing this. Instead we would ask you to work through the learning tasks and email staff to let them know what you have done. If your child finds a task particularly tricky please let your class teacher know and they will suggest activities / provide resources for your child to help reinforce this. Equally if a task has been easy please let your class teacher know and they will give suggestions to help you challenge your child.

Please do email us to let us know what you are doing and how you are getting on. We have all particularly enjoyed seeing photographs you and what you are getting up to during this difficult time, so please do keep those coming in!

### **Parents' Evening**

Following the cancellation of our Parents' evenings this week we initially said that you would receive the information forms staff usually prepare for these evening. Given the 'unknownness' of the current situation staff are now writing reports which you will receive after the Easter holidays. Hopefully, we will return to school during the summer term and staff will be able to update these reports before the summer holiday.

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank all members of our Federation family. Everyone - children, parents and staff - have shown how understanding they are as we have tried our best to negotiate our way through this difficult time.

Please do keep in touch with us and let us know what you are doing. If you have any questions / concerns about things other than school work please email me and I will try my best to help you.



Please say a big hello to all your wonderful children and tell them that all the staff at school are looking forward to seeing them soon.

Missing you all.  
Take care and stay safe

Teresa Bosley  
Head Teacher