



23 April 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

As we embark on what would have been a new school term, over the coming weeks, we are trying to open up lines of communication between teachers and parents/carers. As such, school staff will be emailing each member of their class individually to keep in touch and support them as best they can. We also continue to receive e-mails on our temporary school email address, so if you have a question, need some advice, or would just like to touch base with us, please contact us via: [teachers@moorfieldwidnes.co.uk](mailto:teachers@moorfieldwidnes.co.uk) and we will do our best to respond when we can.

Moving forward, we have discussed, as a school, how best to continue to provide learning opportunities for pupils without placing unnecessary pressure on families. Firstly, home learning must be sustainable for pupils, parents/carers and staff, as we do not have an end date for this new way of living, working and learning. 'Home Learning' should not place undue burden on anyone, yet it is also important that there is some consistency.

During these unprecedented times, as a school, we would like all of our families to feel supported in creating a positive learning environment at home whilst self-isolating or socially distancing. It is very important that the activities children engage in are LEARNING and not TEACHING. Pupils could be supervised whilst completing the work although the learning must be independently accessible for the vast majority.

The recommended timetable for pupils and parents is English, reading and maths each day and then some free choice from the topic and science work provided or creative activities of your choice. All of the home learning resources can be found in either: class folders on the school website (under the home learning tab) or will be sent directly to the email address we have on record for each family. Please check both platforms regularly. If you require hard copies, please contact the school directly.

To complement the home learning activities and resources school staff have provided, there are a couple of National government backed learning resources that have been launched for this term, which you may also find useful:

- The [Oak National Academy](#) is a government-backed online learning platform that launched on Monday 20th April. The new enterprise has been created by 40 teachers from some of the leading schools across England and is funded by the Department of Education. The Academy provides access to 180 video lessons per week, for every year group from Reception through to Year 10. The lessons span a broad range of subjects, including maths, art and languages, and feature a corresponding quiz and worksheet. Each lesson lasts for one hour and the portal will provide the equivalent of three hours of lessons per day for primary students.
- The BBC's newly expanded education offer, 'BBC Bitesize Daily', as the service is called, also commenced on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April and delivers a tailored day of learning across BBC iPlayer, Red Button, BBC Bitesize website and app, BBC Four and BBC Sounds age. The learning platform provides 14 weeks of educational programmes and lessons whatever your child's age.



## HOW TO SUPPORT HOME LEARNING

We know that it is a difficult time for us all, so below is a list of ideas that may be of use to you:

### 1. Be realistic about what you can do

- ✓ **You're not expected to become teachers** and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply **providing your children with some structure** at home will help them to adapt. Use the tips below to help you make this work for your household.
- ✓ **Experiment** at first, then **consider**: What's working and what isn't? Ask your children; involve them too.
- ✓ **Share the load if there are 2 parents at home**. Split the day into 2-3 hour slots and take turns so you can do your own work.
- ✓ **Take care of your own health and wellbeing**. Look back at the links previously suggested on the for some advice on mental health and wellbeing or refer to the government advice on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

### 2. Keep to a timetable wherever possible

- ✓ **Create and stick to a routine** if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school day': Avoid staying in pyjamas!
- ✓ **Involve your children in setting the timetable** where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership.
- ✓ **Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible**. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible. However, if it isn't, move on.
- ✓ If you have more than 1 child at home, **consider combining their timetables**. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your family.
- ✓ **Designate a working space if possible**, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.
- ✓ **Stick the timetable up on the wall** so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day.
- ✓ **Distinguish between weekdays and weekends**, to separate school life and home life.

### 3. Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

- ✓ **Start each morning with a PE lesson** at 9am with Joe Wicks.
- ✓ If you have a **garden, use it regularly**. If you don't, try to get out **once a day** as permitted by the government (a family can be together outdoors but 2 metres apart from others).
- ✓ Get your children to **write in a diary what they did each day**: this can be a clear sign that the 'school' day has ended.

### 4. Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day

- ✓ Where you have more freedom in the timetable, **make time for other activities**. Add some creative time or watch a dance video from Go Noodle to get the heart-rate going.
- ✓ Get your children to **write postcards** to their grandparents or to pen pals.
- ✓ Ask **grandparents to listen to your children read** on FaceTime (or ask grandparents to read to younger children).
- ✓ **Give them jobs** to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home.
- ✓ Ask them to **help you cook**.
- ✓ Accept that **they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone** – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits.
- ✓ There are a range of online activities on the school website under the Home Learning tab.



Once again, we are keeping you all in our thoughts.

Love and Thanks

Kathryn Heyes  
Head Teacher



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