



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Learning - Laughter - Friendship

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that, like us, you are all feeling very unsure about what is happening and how everything is going to develop. We already have staff who have gone into self-isolation and many children have been absent in the last few days. All of this is totally understandable.

Please do not worry about your child's attendance statistics at this time.

Mrs Ogilvie and I worked through an emergency operational plan, for the school, yesterday – examining many aspects of what could/should happen in the event of staff absences and possible closures. I do need to make it very clear that we will be following government guidance and will only close if the ratios of adults to children become unsafe. This may mean that certain year groups will have to be sent home if we do not have enough staff to cover them safely.

One of the main drivers of our plan was to ensure that we have provision for children who are self-isolating while school remains open, as well as a programme of work if we are forced to close. This letter is to explain to you exactly what we will be providing for your children.

Work for children who are at home, and able to work, while school is open.

On the web site, under our “Curriculum/Home Learning” tab, we have added two additional pages.

“Active Learning Links” and “Online Learning”.

The “Online Learning” page has links which will allow your child to access online learning platforms for a variety of subjects. While school is still open, these platforms will help to consolidate and reinforce prior learning.

The Active Learning links are great “moving” videos that will encourage your child to be active during this time in isolation! Perhaps you could join in too – send us a video!

Along with extra reading – using books that you have at home and any library books that you may already have – these activities will enable your child to keep learning and stay active.

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Work for children if the school closes.

Of course, the links above remain very important. However, teaching staff are also currently creating packs of activities for children to do. We will send home some paper-based work packs and PDF versions will be uploaded to the web site. You will see that, should we close, an “Emergency Home Learning” tab will be added to our Curriculum page.

Within this tab, work for each year group will be uploaded. Teachers will also endeavour to get paper copies ready, prior to closure.

It would be a good idea for you to set your children a timetable in which to complete their home learning, please remember to include lots of physical activities. A timetable will give them a routine during this very unusual experience. Of course, if your child is ill we do not expect them to complete the work until he/ she is fully recovered.

Overview of expectations in one week – teachers will upload work for most of the activities below.

<p>ALL PUPILS – suggestions for activities during the day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not play a board game together? • Help with the cooking • Build a den • Play in the garden • Limit time on electronics • Daily reading • Physical activity 60 mins per day (links on the website under Active Learning) • Create their own project and research learning about something they are interested in • Mathletics online platform • Twinkl online learning resource • Purple Mash online learning platform
<p>EYFS – the teachers will put activities on the web site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing activity – approx. 20 minutes • Maths activity daily (number blocks / Mathletics /practical suggestions) approx. 20 minutes • Reading - 15 minutes per day • Read to your child daily – share a story • Handwriting practice – 15 minutes • Practicing phonics daily (using the Phonics Fairy YouTube videos, flower garden flash cards, tricky word stones and high frequency fairy word leaves) approx. 20 minutes • Suggested activities based on EYFS Areas of learning / topic • Lots of fine and gross motor skills activities
<p>KEY STAGE ONE - some activities may be sent home in paper format and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x writing activities – 30 minutes each • Daily maths activities – 20 – 30 minutes per day • Reading - 15 minutes per day • Read to your child daily

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<p>other based on the web site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwriting practice – 15 minutes per day • Practicing phonics - approx. 20 minutes per day • Suggested activities-based topic • Spelling Shed • Year 2 – Times Tables Rock Stars, Accelerated reader quizzes will be made available – PLEASE LET YOUR CHILD DO THESE INDEPENDENTLY!
<p>KEY STAGE TWO – some activities may be sent home on paper – others will be web based</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 mins daily writing activities • Times Table Rock Stars - 20 minutes per day • Reading - 30 minutes per day (reading comprehension) • Accelerated Reader quizzes will be made available – PLEASE LET YOUR CHILD DO THESE INDEPENDENTLY! • 15 – 20 mins handwriting practise • 30 mins maths (either paper copies sent home or online) • SPAG practise 30mins / Spelling Shed • Suggested activities-based topic

Initially, we will upload/ send out one week’s worth of work. After this it will become web based only and teachers will update weekly. Teachers will remain in communication through email while well but please understand that if teachers become ill we do not expect them to answer emails. We will try to ensure the “Out of Office” messages are installed for teachers who are ill – but ask for your understanding if this is not always the case. Depending on when the school closes, once the Easter holidays start on Monday 6th April, our teachers will not be uploading work for that two week period.

These are very uncertain times and we have never had to do any of this before. I am sure that there will be things that could be improved but we ask you to please understand that we are trying to put in place all that we can with the resources that we have available. We would all like to thank you for working with your children and supporting their education during this time.

If school closes there will be no indication of when it may open again. Of course, I will keep you up to date with whatever information I receive. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

I will be sending more updates in the coming days – so please look out for them. If I have missed anything from here – there is no doubt that I will be sending you another letter in the near future.

This is a worrying time for everyone, I wish it was possible to stop all of this and go back to normal – but it isn’t and so we keep encouraging our children with our traditional Growth Mindset! Keep smiling and keep going! We will notify you of any decision to close by using Teachers 2 Parents. Please look out for these.

Stay safe and my very best wishes to you all!

Miss Green

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