



22 April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We begin our Summer term with normal life still on 'pause' for many in our community. I want to remind you that, as this period of closure continues, we are still very much here to support you. Our office is open from 8am-5pm daily and we'll continue to be in regular contact each week.

Learning at home

There is now, more than ever, an abundance of high-quality online learning content available to our children. In my letter from 20th March, I included a list which remains very relevant. Please *continue to make reference to this as required*, you can find it posted on the school website news section.

Over the past month, educators have continued to produce large amounts of content and specifically videos to support learning at home. Listed below you will find **further links** to material that can support home learning. There are more activities than could possibly be accomplished, so please follow your child's interests, and take guidance from your **class teacher**. Everyone's timetable looks different at the moment with work commitments, childcare and daily tasks and you will know what works best for your family. Whatever yours looks like, it is helpful to maintain a routine for working days with regular times for meals, activities ([including physical activity](#)) and rest. Be realistic in your expectations and try not to put pressure on yourself. Any activities sent home are an *invitation* not an expectation and we'd rather give plenty which isn't all completed than not give enough. Whatever you do is fantastic!

Further Resources

There are now two widely promoted sites for video lessons; [BBC Teach](#) and the [Oak National Academy](#). They each provide a *suggested timetable* for daily learning and can be followed sequentially. As with most activities though, younger children will require some support to access.

For **literature**, [BorrowBox](#) lets you borrow e-books and audiobooks from your local library - see [video](#). To support younger readers, [Oxford Owl](#) have a great selection to ensure you don't run out of material and fans of the Gruffalo may like to read this [information book](#) explaining the coronavirus to children. [The Literacy shed](#) have put together helpful resources and there is more fun to be had with [spelling](#).

For **younger children**, the dedicated [EYFS website](#) is great for 3-5 year-olds.

For **mathematics**, [White Rose](#) now have daily lessons, there is [support for parents](#) and a wide variety of [work packs are available](#) as previously referenced.

In **science**, the [Glasgow centre](#) streams a channel every day at 10am, and there are [ideas and resources](#) for chemistry, [human biology](#), space - 'NASA at Home' and science and technology [challenge cards](#) to try alongside [STEM Learning](#). For older children and families, this is the website of the [BBC's Christmas Lectures](#).

In **humanities**, [National Geographic for kids](#) is fantastic as are the UK's [Geographical Association](#) resources. Here are helpful [resources](#) for **RE** across all key stages.

If you are seeking a bit of **culture**, I would highly recommend [Google Arts and Culture](#). There are full-length plays from the [National Theatre](#) on YouTube every Thursday, as well as a great many [museums](#) and [art galleries](#) you can visit [from home](#).

Designers, have a look at [Tinkercad](#) for 3D design or get building with this [30-day LEGO Challenge](#). The ever-popular [Minecraft](#) has educational resources available.

Wild School - check out [The Great Indoors](#) for inside adventures from the Scouts; Learning Through Landscapes web pages for [Early Years](#) and [Upper Primary](#); and nature activities from The Woodland Trust part [one](#) and part [two](#).

Need a **break**? The [15 Best Netflix Educational Shows for Kids](#) have some crackers, the Magic School Bus being one of my favourites and [BBC iPlayer](#) has a great range of entertaining educational programmes including for [younger children](#).

You may like to try this interesting activity - [time capsules](#).

Further ideas: [The Hamilton Trust](#); [Padlet](#); [25 projects to try](#); [45+ resources for happy learning at Home](#) (San Diego Zoo cams are awesome!).

Finally, the Government Department for Education's very own list of [home-learning resources](#) include these and others.

Please keep sending in the pictures, messages and examples of what you have been doing at home, they are fantastic and so encouraging!

NSPCC advice and support for parents and carers

The NSPCC has created a number of resources to support parents and carers during this challenging time. Topics include:

- Talking to a child worried about coronavirus
- Parents working from home
- Children staying home alone
- Lockdown and separated parents
- How to cope with tantrums and other difficult behaviour

The advice can be found on the [NSPCC website here](#):

Mental Health

On my last letter, I highlighted the following list of mental health resources which I would again draw your attention to:

- [Mind – lots of tips and information](#)
- [Mental Health tips – short video](#)
- [Childline resources – what to do if you are worried](#)
- [Anna Freud – Self-care and toolkits](#)
- [Government advice](#)

I am continually encouraged by our community, there is a great deal of positivity, humour, warmth and love despite challenging circumstances. Thank you for all you are doing to support the children and each other at this time. There is a real sense of hope at present that this situation will not last indefinitely, and I am looking forward so much to a time when we are able to open fully.

Yours sincerely,



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