



Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents

As we continue to navigate our way through these difficult times, I hope you have managed to have as restful an Easter holiday as possible and the Easter activity books provided some entertainment and challenge. There continues to be lots of speculation in the press about the possibility of schools reopening soon but it is apparent that home learning will resume for the next couple of weeks at the very least.

We recognise that there are many pressures on households at this extraordinary time and really want to support families as much as possible by making the process as painless as possible yet still ensure children are maintaining the skills and knowledge they have already been taught.



Home Learning Packs

Staff met together (via Zoom of course) to review what went well before Easter and consider how we can improve our provision and we would very much appreciate your feedback in this area so we can continue to adjust the provision and get a balance of content for our young people which doesn't overwhelm families or put too much pressure on technology. We decided the following:

- A fortnightly **accessible** home learning task pack that can be completed in the exercise book or uploaded to portfolio with the **same, open-ended theme** throughout the school but with different learning outcomes to make it easier for families to share their learning experiences. The first theme is **Minibeasts**.
- Continue to post weekly writing tasks on Class Dojo as well as messages to pupils and parents etc.
- If you would like the packs or any of the **recommended online resources** below printed, please send a message via Class Dojo or an email to head@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk or the class teacher and we can organise this.



Recommended Online Resources

- The school follows the '**White Rose Maths**' Maths Mastery approach. We highly recommend the use of the packs and online lessons as pupils are already familiar with their materials. They are also part of the BBC Bitesize Daily materials: <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>
- BBC Bitesize – daily lessons: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>
- Downloadable workbooks in English and Maths with video guides and notes for parents: <https://www.mathematicsmastery.org/free-resources>



Online Safety

This link has lots of parent information to support your child keeping safe online which includes guides to Zoom, Disney+ and other recent apps <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>



Creativity and Presentation

- In school we have had a big focus on improving **Handwriting** and now is the perfect time for children of all ages to practise this skill! We want children to be proud of the presentation of their work. At school there are often pressures on time but at home children can work at their own pace and refine their editing and presentation skills. For example, after writing a story, this is an ideal opportunity to turn it into a book with illustrations and best handwriting. They can share it with the class when we return or send me a video and I can upload it on Class Dojo.
- Make a Movie or Stop Motion Animation. This website shows you how: <https://tinkerlab.com/easy-stop-motion-animation-kids/>
Check out this powerful animation created by an 8 year old in Soham (make sure you have a tissue to hand) https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=17&v=n7ypL3jDnWg&feature=emb_logo
- Create a game using Scratch coding <https://scratch.mit.edu/parents>



Beat the Isolation Blues

- Send me a clip of your child dancing / pulling a funny face / anything so I can add them to the Swaffham Prior video!



Routines

- Please remember that this is a very different set up to school with a very unusual set of circumstances. The mental health of our children is at the heart of what we do. I recommend trying to establish a balanced week day routine with lots of breaks. From personal experience, if children can concentrate (in short bursts) on academic subjects for up to two hours then that is a very good outcome. This will, of course, depend on the age and independence of the child and, even at school, some days are better than others!
- We will continue to be available on Wednesdays to change reading books etc. in a socially distant and safe way! Please send a message via Class Dojo or an email to head@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk on Tuesday or Wednesday so we can organise this.
- Teachers will have reduced hours on Class Dojo on Wednesdays as we will be continuing weekly staff meetings and curriculum development so that when we return, children can hit the ground running!

As always, we are here to support in whatever way we can so please don't hesitate to contact us.

Stay safe!

Kind regards

H Bartley