

Fressingfield C of E Primary School

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

School Closure – advice for successful home-schooling

Unfortunately, in line with government advice, the school is now closed. At the present time, we do not know how long the school closure will last for. Suffice to say, we will follow all governmental advice and keep you informed of any changes as soon as we hear them.

This is an important time in your child's education and, as the closure might last for an extended period of time, we recommend continuing to support them with their learning at home.

The teachers have put together home-learning packs for every child to support them through to the Easter holidays. (If necessary, we will continue to provide additional materials during the summer term.) Please work with your child to teach them and help them work through the tasks in the packs. These have been put together by year group, but we recognise that not all children are at the same point in their learning, so it might be necessary for you to adapt the task to better suit your child.

If you have any questions, or need any additional support, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher by email or via Tapestry (Waveney Class) during this period; they will endeavour to get back to you as soon as they can (but please respect the fact they may not be able to respond straight away).

In addition to the packs, we make the following recommendations:

- Introduce a structure at the start of this period, and try to maintain it throughout the closure. We have provided a recommended timetable in the pack, and a blank one that you can fill in with details of what your child has done. If a structure is in place, your child should quickly get used to the routine.
- Start the day in the normal way: maintain your morning routines and try to get going by 9am.
- Use a timer so that children know how long each task will take. Lessons in school are about 40 minutes long (in KS2 they are about an hour), and this isn't an unreasonable time to stay focused.
- Have high expectations.
- Give positive feedback – and be specific about what you like ("That's a great sentence and you remembered your capital letter and full stop." "That's a really effective word choice." "You set out your calculation really neatly with each digit in the right column.") and about

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what they could do next to improve their work (“Have another look at this paragraph – I think it should be split into four sentences. Can you see where the full stops should go?”). Use the marking schemes provided in the packs to check the work with your child and to go through it with them together.

- Have regular brain breaks and breaks for doing something physical.
- Each day aim to do
 - o Reading
 - o A written task (spelling, punctuation and grammar, or a creative writing task)
 - o Maths
 - o Physical activity
 - o Another task such as something creative, scientific, historical, cooking, crafty, making, geographical, a board game, etc. These could last over several days (eg: making a Lego vehicle for exploring the depths of the ocean, then researching, drawing and writing about the creatures they would find there, before describing a deep-sea creature that is new to science!)
- Use the exercise book we are sending home to keep a record of everything you do. Insist on high standards of presentation such as by trimming work before it is stuck in, ruling neat margins, etc: if children can see that you value the work they are doing, they will take more care doing it.
- Children in Waveney Class can upload their work to Tapestry – Ms Leport and Mrs East will be checking this every day.
- Use the plentiful online resources for ideas: we have attached some websites you can access.
- Make learning ‘hands on.’ Activities that require equipment make learning more memorable.
- Be positive
- Keep your child well fed and hydrated
- Make it fun.
- Limit screen time to after school hours.

Recommended websites:

www.twinkl.co.uk – this is a huge learning resource and it is free at the moment. If you are finding it tricky to explain an idea, they have powerpoints to cover almost every aspect of the curriculum and worksheets to accompany them, and other interactive games.

www.theschoolrun.com – worksheets, previous test papers, etc.

www.oxfordowl.co.uk – interactive reading website

www.bbc.co.uk/teach - resources, videos and quizzes linked to all aspects of the curriculum

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize - lots of videos, etc.

www.kidztype.com - free touch-typing resource

www.literacyshed.com - Interactive maths resources

www.10ticks.com Fun games to learn times tables – all children have an individual log-in

www.topmarks.co.uk Lots of interactive maths games (including Hit the button)

www.timetables.co.uk

www.timestables.me.uk

We hope this is helpful. We will try to be in regular contact over this period. You can continue to contact the school using the office email, or contact the class teacher directly.

Yours faithfully

Jeremy Leicester

SUGGESTED TIMETABLE

TIME	ACTIVITY	
9am	<p>Reading</p> <p>At school, we always start with guided reading. Read together, complete a comprehension, respond to the book in some way (picture, summary, character study, description, review). Record this in your exercise book.</p>	
9.30am	<p>Break</p> <p>Take a short brain break. Do something physical – how many times can you throw and catch a tennis ball in a minute? How many star jumps can you do in a minute?</p>	
9.45am	<p>Maths</p> <p>10 minute mental warm up: times tables, number bonds, ordering, sequencing, etc (see the websites above). 35-45 minutes Maths learning and task from your pack.</p>	
10.30am	<p>Break</p> <p>Have a run around – do something active to get your blood flowing. Make a circuit. Have a piece of fruit and a drink. Go to the loo.</p>	
11am	<p>English</p> <p>SPAG task (spelling, punctuation, grammar) warm up. English task – this can be a continuation of the SPAG lesson, or planning for writing, or a written task.</p>	
12am	<p>Lunch and break</p> <p>Have lunch. Help with the washing up and putting away. Do something physical, then have a little quiet relaxing time.</p>	
1.15pm	<p>Afternoon activity</p> <p>This could be science, craft, cooking, geography, history, art, design and technology, French, etc. This could be a one-off activity, or something that will last over several days.</p>	
2.30pm	<p>End of the day</p> <p>Reflect on what has been learnt. Take photos and stick these into the exercise book if possible. Look forward to tomorrow.</p>	