



HOMESCHOOLING IN YEAR 1

Dear Year 1 Parents/ Carers

We do hope that you and your family are safe and well. The staff are missing the children terribly and we continue to think of you all and your families. We would like to thank the brave and fantastic parents who are working on the frontline and we continue to offer emergency day care for those families. We thank you for keeping your children at home as the guidelines from the Government clearly state that children are safer at home. We know how challenging it can be to keep children happy, amused in these unprecedented circumstances. We hope that you are managing to stay positive and make the best of this extraordinary time. We understand that it won't be possible for all families to continue with a normal routine, especially those of you who are working from home. We hope that you can use this time to learn some new skills together as a family such as cooking or playing board games. For those families with limited time and who need to prioritise can we suggest that you aim to read with your child three times a week and use the resources suggested below to focus on the core subjects English and Mathematics.

On Monday 20th April the Government launched an online learning platform. (Oak National Academy). <https://www.thenational.academy/> It is a new enterprise created by 40 teachers from the top schools across England. The website is split into year groups and then by subject and is easy to navigate. The video lessons are presented in a way that the children will be familiar with and all of the learning objectives link to the national curriculum. The teachers are engaging and friendly and the activities linked to the videos are manageable and only generally require paper and pencil.

Alternatively the BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> has launched its own education package featuring celebrities and some of the best teachers. There are now daily lessons available. Similarly it is split by year group and subject, making it easy to find the right level for your child. Each day offers three 20 minute sessions on Maths, English and one different subject e.g. Science, History etc. Again the videos are linked directly to the national curriculum and to the long term planning in our school. Some of the videos do not feature an actual teacher but animations. There are even great learning games where your progress can be saved to continue later.

As phonics is a focus in year one and key to unlocking reading and spelling we would like to remind you that www.phonicsplay.co.uk are offering free access during this time. The children will already be familiar with the website as we use it in school.

If you are running out of books at home <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/> are offering some free online books that are read by celebrities.

For those children who are feeling a bit confused about the coronavirus epidemic and if you want to talk to them about the current situation Axel Scheffler the illustrator of the Gruffalo has produced a free online book to explain that can be accessed at <https://nosycrow.com/>. For any children who are suffering from worry or anxiety during this time then the following website has some useful tips for helping children to relax. <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Find what works best for your child but all these resources are high quality and created and recommended by teachers. Do as much or as little as your child feels like as ultimately during this exceptional time first and foremost we want your child to be happy and safe.

We thank you for your support during this time. Stay safe.

Year 1 Team