



Kelvedon St. Mary's
C of E Primary Academy
Nursery & Autism Support Centre

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COVID -19 (Coronavirus) School Closure Remote Home Learning

11th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have now completed our first four days of Remote Home Learning. I just wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the wider picture around the way this learning is planned by the teachers.

Firstly, what has always made our school great, and the learning so successful, is that teachers plan creative and interesting learning experiences that have no ceiling. This means that an individual can develop and expand on even the simplest of tasks and make it sensational.

A worksheet requiring fixed answers is restrictive, often the child gets all of the answers right, therefore, realistically, hasn't learnt anything new. A task such as 'build a fairy castle' is limitless. This can take one child 20 minutes and for another become a week's project. It could be made with Lego, paper, cardboard boxes or a child could amaze us by doing it on CAD for example. Tasks with no ceiling build real learning skills.

Teachers are aware that families cannot supervise and teach children all day, use of ICT for some is limited and not everyone has a printer. Therefore most tasks need to be accessible and enable the child to use their 6Rs to have a go at them.

Teachers are also conscious that every home environment is different. Some children are lucky enough to have their own learning space and the latest ICT technology for their personal use. Other children have to share technology with siblings, may only have a mobile phone to view their learning and some live in small spaces and flats where a quiet learning space is difficult to find.

Your child's teacher is trying to plan a balanced variety of learning that is accessible to the whole year group and incorporates a range of learning styles. Also, each teacher is an individual, and they plan learning using the skills and expertise that they have. That has been a major key to why our school is so successful (our worst results in the last 10 years were 15% above National in combined reading, writing and maths – most schools are delighted with 1 or 2% either side of National). In short, each year groups approach will have some similarities and some differences unique to their year group needs and their chosen learning style. Other schools that are teaching face to face every day through media, may not have thought about families with more than one child, or those that are only using mobile phones, or those that work and do the tasks in the evening.

It's all about getting the balance right. The teachers do listen to constructive feedback from parents/carers and children and adapt accordingly.

Please also remember that each week different teachers are in school teaching the vulnerable children and those of critical key workers. When doing this they will not be 'online' as I only expect them to do one role.

My whole team is extremely grateful for the hard work that you are all putting in to Remote Home Learning during this difficult time and ask that you do what you can and pick the tasks that you and your child can manage in your unique situation.

Teachers and other staff will communicate with you and try to engage with you and your child in a range of ways. We are all here to help you if you need it – just reach out.

M Walsh

Mr. M Walsh Headteacher

