



MEMO – 19/4/20:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update on Home Learning support during School closure re: Coronavirus/COVID-19

We fully understand this change to home schooling has been a major shift for us all and that the majority of you as parents never expected to ever be having to home educate your children. The work we are sending home is therefore not intended to put any pressure on any of you as families, but is there to support and facilitate this home learning, as we know how hard you are all working to manage and support your children in this unprecedented situation. Please therefore be assured that as a school our overriding goal is that we continue working in support of our pupils and yourselves throughout this period, providing educational input, support, advice and resources for you all.

Before Easter, staff updated their class pages on the website with a letter to the children, but also some Easter work and tasks that we hope you were able to try, with many of these leading the children in to this terms topic focus. This followed on from the work packs we initially sent home for every child, to cover approximately two weeks work, with school also providing further resources online for those who wanted to access them.

On-going home learning:

- As outlined in the last newsletter, *from Monday*, all teachers will be leading learning for the children and yourselves on a weekly basis.
- All staff have planned this terms learning, focussing on developing key skills in maths, reading, writing and GHASP each week (grammar, handwriting, spelling and punctuation) designing the learning to be as supportive and easy as possible to both follow and implement at home.
- ***New work will be uploaded to the class pages on the school website by 9-30am on the Monday of each new week.*** <https://www.bratton.wilts.sch.uk/>
- The work on the website will encompass worksheets, web-links and there will be videos from staff introducing and modelling learning, also linking work in with Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Professor Assessor.
- All the work will have accompanying explanations and support for you as parents to aid successful delivery of the learning at home.
- We will monitor how this works and will of course listen to feedback and adapt, change and amend our practice as we continue to find our way in this new learning environment.
- We are abundantly aware that resources for us all at home continue to be at a premium due to the enforced isolation, so the aim is that the majority of the work can be accessed directly from the screen *without* the need for printing.
- Please do utilise the class email if you have any queries or concerns about any of the home learning.

- This email is also a chance for you as parents to scan in or send in photographs of children's work that you would like teachers to look at, or to ask any questions relating to home learning that you may have, and we look forward to this tool allowing for increased interaction between the children, parents and staff.

As we hope you can see, as a school, we will be aiming to continue with each year groups curricula goals in the coming terms, but we are fully aware that how this is covered will be unique in every family. We do not yet have definitive answers on how learning will look when we all finally return to school, but we can say that the children's on-going learning in this time will always be valued and will add to their all-round development.

We will therefore look at this next two terms work as being part of the on-going coverage of the national curriculum but *please be assured that skills covered in this home learning time will be revisited, reviewed and consolidated when we do return to school so do not feel any undue pressure regarding children falling behind or keeping up.* We have therefore not produced a weekly timetable, giving you as parents' flexibility on how you manage your time, but staff have included timing guidelines for each activity they have produced.

Our advice would be that you therefore aim to follow the learning we send out on a weekly basis, but continue to balance this with on-going enriching activities, daily exercise, child initiated research etc., but maintaining the consistency of some school led work being covered every day. We know that some schools nationally are stating that work sent out is expected to be covered in full, however, we are mindful that this does not take account of individual parental circumstances, capacity and time etc. so we are hopefully going for a balanced, pragmatic, 'middle' view.

We thank you all for your support and understanding. If you have any specific queries related to education you can also speak to The Department For Education which has a special helpline which can be used by parents and which offers advice and guidance. The line is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Please be assured we will continue to follow the latest government and Public Health England advice and we will keep everyone updated via our school communications and if you have any concerns or questions about the home learning in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Regards,
Mr Ian Bolton
Headteacher