



Sunningwell Primary School

Resources and Information April

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you were enjoying the lovely weather we have had, although not experiencing right now.

We are aware that there are those in our wider school community who have contracted COVID-19 and some are seriously ill and have been admitted to hospital. We also have families that include vulnerable children and adults and we are very concerned for them. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time.

Remote Learning

At the bottom of this Newsletter there are some guidance notes from the Government.

It has been good to see so many of the children on Google Classroom. If you have any problems or questions about Google Classroom, please email the school office. We are, however, very concerned to see that a minority of children are not engaging with remote learning at all.

The expectations of learning are that children should do 3 hours (maximum) of remote learning per day this could be less - this does give plenty of time to be on devices playing games afterwards! When we return to school (whenever and however that may be) school life will be very different and it important that children maintain a routine of remote learning now. There is a possibility that even when children 'return to school' some time will be spent in school and some will be remote learning at home. School as we know it, could be disrupted for some time and it is unlikely be that school will return to normal in June or even September this year. In short, when schools re-open the pattern of attendance for children may be very different and remote learning will probably be part of the 'new normal' for a very long time.

We would encourage all children to attempt some remote learning each school day. Teachers are available via Google Classrooms and if you have any questions about remote learning please email the School Office. We are here to help you!

Resources

We know there are an overwhelming amount of resources available online. We have, therefore, included a very few links that we feel may be useful to you below.

Online Safety

Most children are spending a lot more time on devices and we often think we know what they are looking at and doing online. In the media over the past couple of days, we have seen that very IT savvy parents have found that seemingly harmless games and apps have had hidden chat rooms and they had no idea that their very young children had been able to access these. Settings on apps change and privacy is not always maintained. To support you in the conversation and for some activities that children can do to further their understanding we have included a website that is useful for children and parents.

If you only have time to look at one link – make it this one!

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>. This link will be added to your children's Google Class and to the website.

Time Capsule

This is a short 'time capsule' that children can complete to keep a record of this unique time in their lives. The attachment can be downloaded on this ParentMail email.

Sport and Physical Activity

In the early days of school closures, we saw lots of your posts on social media of you doing PE with Joe Wickes, strangely we have not seen many posts of late! We assume that you are still doing PE with Joe every day and not watching it from your sofa with a cuppa and a slice of that cake that you made yesterday??

The local team that arranges sporting competitions that our children normally take part in have produced some challenges and activities that children can link into online. So why not give these a try!

<http://www.activeoxfordshire.org/school-games>

<http://www.yourschoolgames.com/>

Young Art Competition

If your child submitted a picture for the Young Art Competition there will be a display of their work online at www.youngartoxford.com. The online display will go live on 7th May

IT Help

If you need help with any school related IT problems, please contact I23ICT. They are our school IT support company and are providing free IT support whilst schools are closed. They can be reached on 01993 848291 or support@I23ICT.co.uk

Remote Learning and Well-being – Advice from the Government

When schools provide children with work, they may give you advice on how to structure the day. But generally, you should try to make sure that they:

- get up and go to bed at the same time each day
- have regular meal times
- have regular breaks
- make time to be active - children are used to regular play at lunch and break times

Using digital devices

Your child's school may set them work that can be done on a digital device such as a laptop, desktop, tablet or smartphone.

Set age-appropriate parental controls on any devices your child is using and supervise their use of websites and apps. See [advice on keeping them safe online](#) and talk to your child about online safety.

Reducing screen time

Digital devices are not the only way to learn. Manage screen time with a timer and break up screen time by getting your child to:

- use books and other printed materials that their school has provided or that you have at home
- write by hand – try asking them to complete work by hand, write a diary, a summary of things they have learned or done each day or 'to do' lists
- be active and get away from the screen regularly – see a selection of [physical activity resources](#) for primary school children
- stop using digital devices at least an hour before bed

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children

The best way to help children aged 4 to 7 learn is to:

- sit with them as they work
- do active and practical things, rather than trying to make them sit and listen for long periods
- try to break down the work into shorter periods, based on how long they can concentrate
- take frequent breaks
- praise or reward them when they do well

Talking

Talk with your child throughout the day and try to explain new words. For example, discuss everything you are doing and pick out words that might be new to them.

- Reading together
- When you read with your child try to:
 - express the emotion in the story
 - give colour to the characters using voices, tone and pace
 - discuss the things you are reading
- You can make a story more interesting and help your child develop their understanding of a book by linking what you are reading to their life. For example, while reading about Cinderella going to the ball, talk about how a ball is similar to a birthday party.
- Ask your child questions about what you are reading as you go. For example:
 - ask some questions that only need a short answer, such as what colour something is, or the name of a character
 - ask some questions that need a longer answer, such as how a character is feeling
 - ask them to tell you what has happened in the story so far
- Libraries are currently closed, but you can find digital services they are providing at [Libraries Connected](#).

Phonics

Phonics is a method schools use to teach children how to read quickly and skilfully.

Contact your school, which will be working on ways to help you with this. Try to sit with your child and practise with them, following the advice you get from their school.

Writing

Try to help children to continue to practise their writing. This may include the formation of letters and familiarity with pens and pencils for younger children or practising creative writing for older children.

Ask children to write about their day-to-day experiences of being at home, or to write letters to send to family members.

Numbers

Practise counting and numbers. This does not always have to be a planned activity. For example, count things around the house while you are doing other things like cooking or cleaning.

For older children learning sums, ask your school for help or see a [list of resources to help with maths](#) recommended by teachers and school leaders.

Year 3 to 6 children

The best way to help children aged 7 to 11 learn is to:

- give them support and direction, but encourage them to do work independently too
- include active and practical things, rather than trying to make them sit and work for long periods
- try to break down the work into shorter periods, based on how long they can concentrate
- take frequent breaks
- praise or reward them when they do well
- To check if they are learning try to:
 - ask them questions as they go
 - talk about things they learned

Talking

Ask children to talk through what they have learned during the day and find time to talk with them more generally.

Reading

Talk to your child about what they are reading. This will help them understand what they have read and encourage them to read for fun.

Ask your child questions about what they are reading. For example:

ask questions that make them think about the story, such as how a character is feeling

ask them to tell you what has happened in the story so far

Libraries are currently closed, however, you can find digital services they are providing at [Libraries Connected](#).

Writing

Try to help children practise their writing. Work from school may be sent digitally but using pen and paper will help children be ready for when they go back to school.

Information for parents of year 6 children

Year 6 children (aged 10 to 11) should continue doing any work set for them by their school.

To prepare for going to secondary school this can be a good time for them to follow their own interests. For example, for:

- history, by visiting the [English Heritage](#) website to explore England's history
- geography, by researching other countries
- science, by finding out more about the human body on [BBC Bitesize](#)
- art, by trying the activities on [TATE Kids](#)

