



St Brigid's C of E Primary School

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'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
Luke 10:27

2-4-2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Home Learning – Finding a positive and sustainable way through – Week 2

We are half way through week two of home learning. It is not the same as normal school and my staff miss the interaction with the children. I imagine there are additional pressures but hopefully some positives at home as well. We are doing our very best with home learning and I hope our initial mix of support using online resources and hard copies of work has been useful. Certainly the feedback we have received suggests that it has been received positively.

In addition, my staff have been developing additional features of the home learning part of the website. We now have:

- Weekly whole school podcasts,
- Podcasts from teachers in year groups,
- Video messages, mainly for the younger children at the moment
- Teachers reading books or parts of books
- Feedback on the use of Mathletics and Bug Club
- Teachers have written a plan for the rest of the year and we release this information every two weeks. We have been careful to keep the format the same and we have provided links or the resources alongside.
- An additional section on learning Spanish which Mrs Carver will add to later on
- An additional section to support children's understanding of Covid 19 in a child friendly way with resources to help
- Spanish resources
- Guidance on how to use Bug Club for parents – developing reading skills

In this week's podcast I have been thinking about home learning both professionally and personally (I have three children/teenagers at home myself, all at different stages of study). They are all different and all respond in different ways. The youngest is up and ready and gets on with things in the morning, but needs to do some exercise and burn off some early energy. I need to have a different approach with the others! As a parent, I realise I am not going to replace the teacher, but I can encourage and help my children to create regular routines and study habits, offering practical steps that children can take. Parents can support their children by encouraging them to agree to a plan for the day, and manage their time, effort, and emotions. This type of support will help children to manage their own learning.

The most important aspect is to establish a routine and remember **it's not all about work**. Detailed below is some of the guidance that has already been shared. Your support in helping them to follow this advice, firstly by adopting a routine is very important.

- Encourage your children to get up at the same time every weekday and go to bed as if they were at school.
- Get them to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner at regular times.
- Plan in some exercise.
- Help them keep in contact with some friends at lunch or in the evening using approved (supervised) media
- Encourage them to read a book or do some puzzles. (Audible are offering free audio books).
- Children should work in short spells unless they become immersed/deeply interested in something.
- Ensure they have regular breaks and do something in the breaks
- For older pupils encourage them to work, without their phone next to them!
- Try to get them to mix up their time with practical work, art, exercise and cooking/baking.
- Encourage them to keep a short diary; write down three things they are happy with every day
- Develop their chess skills (mainly year 3 and above) using <https://www.chesskid.com> - a simple log in and very child friendly/safe and structured way to learn and play chess

Teachers making contact over the next few weeks

Over the next few weeks we are developing the idea of making telephone contact with all parents. This is just to check in with you and to discuss how your children are managing at this strange and potentially difficult time and to see if we can offer any further help.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Le Feuvre

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