

Dear Parents,

30.3.20

Week 2...here we go. I do hope you all had a good weekend and, most importantly, that you and your families are all healthy.

Thank you again for the support you have offered and the for the discussions we have had regarding the school situation - I hope you can understand the rationale behind the decisions I have made. I can assure you, it has not been an easy few weeks to be a Headteacher.

Whilst my children paint rainbows in the infant classroom (!) I have been looking at several options for home education if, as seems likely, we are unable to return to normal schooling after the Easter Break. Firstly, I have attached a few useful mathematics resources to this email. First Space Learning have some excellent resources if you want a Twinkl Time Out! The Code Crackers are always popular and there are a few useful times table activities too. I have attached the Number Club Sheets for Infant children and some super-hard ones for older juniors. Apologies to those of you who have asked me for the Rapid Recall sheets; I can't find them! I will send them out when I have a copy.

In general, however, I confess I am a home-learning sceptic. School is about so much more than Twinkl worksheets (although I love all the people who work for the "company", obviously!!!) and a lot of what makes schooling such a vital life-experience cannot be recreated in another environment. This is not to say there is nothing worth doing at home; rather that it is absolutely not worth worrying about - my children have done some times tables, lots of gardening, a bit of (disastrous) baking, painting and lots and lots of reading. I can assure you we are not slogging through the bulging file of worksheets they brought home two weeks ago.

We have sent emails to elderly relatives and skyped a lot of people too. This, to me, is real-life experience which could be useful to the children when we do get back to school. One small piece of good news which could come from this horrible time is that we could help the children to become more confident using a parent-monitored email address safely, which is a life-skill I believe we should help them to develop before they leave us in Year 6.

With this in mind, I would like to ask you all to create an email address for your child to use whilst we are not at school. My suggestion is that you set them up a gmail address linked to your personal Google Account using 'Google Family'. This means you are notified and have to give your permission every time they try to sign in to their address and you have full administrator rights and access to their account so online risks are minimised.

If all children in the Juniors (and Year 2 children whose parents are willing for them to try using email) could have an address ready for the end of the Easter Break, we could email out videos, links and attachments with year-group specific activities/projects for the children to access. Please let me know if you find it difficult to set up an email and I can send out some step-by-step instructions to you.

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Mr Green