

Dear Parents and Carers

Well we are half way through our first week of 'home learning' and I wanted to just touch base with you all. I can see how hard you are all working and have loved looking at your posts on Facebook. Thank you especially for the birthday messages yesterday - they made me smile and cry in equal measure!

Some of you have been asking about whether we could set up something similar to Tapestry for the KS1 children. We are working on this and will have something to share with you in the next couple of days. This will enable teachers to read stories to the children, to explain things that parents might be struggling with and for the children to show their teachers their work. It is not designed to provide more work - you have enough of that to be going on with! To be ready for this you might want to download the app called 'Seesaw' - the logo is below to ensure you download the right app. More on this to follow.



I wanted to add a few comments which I hope will support you with this new - temporary - reality:

- The work that is being suggested on the website is just that - a suggestion. For example, you might find that your child isn't keen on the chosen book - so choose another that they *are* interested in. You DO NOT have to do everything that is included on the daily plan.
- The most important thing is that your child reads something most days and that you read to them - a bedtime story maybe? Writing something - maybe a diary - would also be a good idea, or a letter to a grandparent that they can't see at the moment. If they are happy to do the suggested task, then great - but it might not float their boat.
- There are lots of educational websites being shared at the moment. Lots of them are great - but don't be tempted to do all your learning this way - it will mean far too much screen time. Think about whether what they are learning can be done outside instead.
- If any of you are getting stressed or anxious about the work - then it's time to stop. No amount of learning is worth spoiling the relationship you have with your child.
- Remember that NO children are in school at the moment. They will all have catching up to do when school begins again - and that will be our job. Your job is just to keep them 'ticking over' so that they don't forget what they've learned so far.

- The sun is shining - go outside and smell the roses! We are suggesting you have a 'Wind-down Wednesday' in the middle of the week when learning is much more active and physical - physical education should not be neglected.
- Finally, now more than ever I hope we are realising the things that are important to us. Your children - and their well-being - are the most important thing to us all. Don't feel guilty about 'skipping school' and skipping round the garden instead. Don't feel guilty for weeding instead of reading. Remember the learning that can be found in baking bread, making a den, building the tallest tower you can out of Lego or from making up a song or poem to sing to a grandparent down the phone. It's our job to allow our children to continue being children over the next weeks or months, so that when normality returns - which it will - they can continue their school journey as children.

With love from us all at Crofton Hammond,

Jacky