



Temple Grafton

Church of England Primary School

17th April 2020

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE - 1

Dear TG Families

We hope that you have enjoyed spending time together over Easter. We truly appreciate that this is a very challenging time and we understand that teaching children at home is not an easy task. To all our families who are grappling with the challenge of supporting their children's learning at home whilst also working from home or out in the community (and keeping up with the everyday essential tasks like shopping and household chores!) we would like to say a huge well done and thank you. With the very best will in the world, it is an almost impossible task to manage it all and we can only do our best.

As we are now becoming more familiar with our WeLearn365 online learning platform and have had the opportunity to review the resources we are using, we are going to make a few changes to how we share learning with you at home. We are including quite a lot of information in this newsletter and attachments to support you, and Mrs Gray and I will be available next week for some live webinars to talk you through the changes and answer your questions. The learning activities that we are suggesting are there as a guide and you will each know best what is manageable for you and your children. Please do not feel anxious if you are not able to complete the tasks; focussing on staying healthy and happy at this very difficult time is the most important thing to do.

Introducing Microsoft Teams

Included with the welearn365 package that we subscribe to in Warwickshire, is the online collaboration platform, Microsoft Teams. Moving forward we plan to share the weekly learning projects each Friday on Microsoft Teams (we will also email them out to you too). By using Microsoft Teams, children will have the opportunity to complete a learning project task online in either Word or PowerPoint and then submit it to their teacher who will be able to review it and give feedback. Microsoft Teams should open automatically when logging in on a laptop. For families using an iPad or tablet you may be asked to download the Teams app to get started.



What learning should we try to cover at home?

Everyone's priority at the present time has to be on keeping ourselves and our families safe, happy and well. Having daily routines and keeping busy can be very helpful in supporting our mental health and wellbeing. We hope that our families will use the materials we share to support you at home and also that they will help us to maintain contact between the children and their teachers which will be so important in helping with the transition back into school, when the time comes for us all to be back together again.

We understand that everyone's circumstances are different. For those families who are able to support learning at home, we recommend that, where possible, families try to ensure that children are engaged in the following each week:

Weekly Learning Project

We will continue to share the weekly learning projects and hope that children will be able to complete one of the project activities from the second page to share with their class teacher through Microsoft Teams.



Daily Reading Activity

Keeping up with reading is probably the single most important skill to focus on during the closure. Reading supports learning across the curriculum and helps children to succeed academically. Reading activities include children reading to themselves; children sharing stories with adults, and listening to stories - amazon audible is free for children's books and is a brilliant way of accessing quality texts read by authors and actors.

Daily Physical Activity

The benefits of being physically active on our mental health and well-being are huge. We know that many of you are completing the daily Joe Wicks workout on YouTube. Strictly Come dancing's Oti Mabuse is also offering a daily dance class on You Tube. Going outside for our one form of daily exercise is also really beneficial – walking, running, and cycling.





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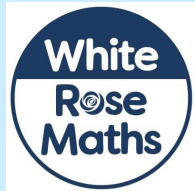
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White Rose Daily Maths Lessons



These are available online at <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/> and also as a link within your child's Microsoft Team Class page. White Rose is the scheme that we follow in school and they are providing a free daily home learning lesson on a PowerPoint and an activity sheet for the children to complete. The activity sheet can be printed if you are able or the children (with some adult help) can write out the answers. If you are working from the screen, there may be some questions that you are unable to do (or example if they involve measuring) – don't worry, this is not a problem.

Opportunities to Write

This could be the learning tasks or it could be writing for different purposes such as letters to family and friends, messages of support for key workers, or creating quizzes for others to complete. The fine motor skills we use to control a writing implement will weaken if not used regularly so keeping writing muscles active is important in preparation for our return to school.



Phonics - for Classes 1 & 2



The website <https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/> is one that we use in school as part of our phonics teaching. The children are very familiar with the games. It is free to join during the closure with the username: march20 and the password: home. Class 1 are working on Phase 2 & Phase 3 and Class 2 on Phase 4 and Phase 5. A couple of sessions a week would really help to keep their phonics ticking over.

Online Learning Platforms

StudyLadder / TT Rockstars / My Maths / Purple Mash. These online resources are there to provide additional learning opportunities and extension activities to reinforce the children's knowledge and skills. Children are welcome to go on daily if they are happy to do so; we suggest that children aim to complete 2 sessions per week on at least one of the websites.

You may also like to look out for the daily BBC Bitesize lessons starting on Monday 20th April. The BBC iPlayer and the Red Button service will host Bitesize Daily. These are six different 20-minute shows, each designed to target a specific age group, from ages five to 14, and for pupils throughout the UK. Maths, Science and English will be covered in dedicated programmes, and other subjects such as History, Geography, Music and Art will also be covered. We do not have any more details at present but will update you when we do.



Family Webinars

Mrs Gray and I are planning to hold online webinars in Teams to talk you through how to access and use Teams and answer any questions. The sessions will be on Monday 20th April at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday 21st April at 10:30 a.m. In order to join please login to WeLearn365 using your eldest TG child's WeLearn365 account. Then follow the attached instructions for accessing Microsoft Teams, open up the TG Families Team and select, join the meeting.

Attached with this newsletter are a set of documents to support you:

- Instructions for accessing Microsoft Teams
- Instructions for how to access and complete the Learning project assignments in Teams
- WeLearn365 online safety advice