

24.11.20

Dear Parents/Carers

Home learning

In the current situation where the majority of our pupils are unable to attend school, I wanted to write to explain that expectations now for home learning are very different from the lockdown we experienced from March to July, when children mostly completed work packs and accessed online platforms such as TT Rockstars and Numbots.

These online platforms are great for homework as they help children practise previously learned skills and consolidate their learning, but they do not teach children anything new. Lockdown meant that children missed a significant amount of time off school and, as a result, there are gaps in learning that need addressing to enable them to catch up. Lessons and activities on Google Classroom teach children the work they missed as well as moving them on with new learning, so this will help prevent gaps from widening further.

Some parents have recently requested work packs for their children but I must stress that, whilst they are better than doing no work at home, they are not as effective as the Google Classroom activities.

We do understand that all family situations are unique and that it may be difficult in some circumstances to get on to Google Classroom. If this is the case for you and your family, please discuss it with the member of staff who calls home to speak to you, or ring school. We will do our very best to help support you.

Talking of ringing home, it is important that we maintain contact with children and their families during the time they would normally be in school. We have a responsibility to ensure that children are safe and well, and that they are doing some school work every week day wherever possible. When a member of staff rings you, their number will not be displayed. If you don't answer the first time I am asking staff to try you again a couple of times in close succession so that you know it's us ringing and not some call centre trying to sell you something! If unsuccessful, we will try and get hold of you through dojo messages, text messages or email.

For the sake of your child and their education, I urge you to do your very best to support the school's efforts to provide quality learning whilst your child is at home.

Many thanks.

Linda Laird
Headteacher