



26th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first week of home learning!

We hope that you and your families are all keeping safe and well. We wanted to make contact after our first week of home learning to provide some advice and answer some questions that we have received. As with all new situations, the challenges set and the pace in which the work is completed will settle into a proper pattern as we all come to terms with this new way of working. The work set which has been sent to you and is also available on our school website is being updated with a new selection of work being available after the Easter holidays. This work has been designed to help you in supporting your son/daughter to continue their learning over the coming weeks and months. We hope that this letter provides you with further clarity on what we will be expecting from your son/daughter during this exceptional time.

Whilst we fully appreciate how challenging this can be for all families, we implore you to do all you can to support your child in continuing to access education to the absolute best of yours and their ability. Routine and a sense of purpose are going to be incredibly important over the coming weeks and months, especially after the novelty wears off. This being said, the children are young so please do your very best to not pressure them or yourselves in any case! A little bit is better than nothing, and we do appreciate that keeping young children motivated in the home for long periods of time is a challenge in itself. Please be kind to yourselves about this, we are all in the same boat, our own personal best as parents is enough!

Please do also be aware that we cannot provide a 'school away from school'. It can be a challenge to teach new content remotely and therefore work set will be a combination of new learning as well as work which will sit outside the curriculum, or provide opportunity to recap prior learning, develop skills and deepen the children's understanding - this is hugely valuable and should be recognised as such.

Keeping a daily routine, maintaining some form of exercise, and making time for reading all have significant benefits to mental health and well-being. We would strongly encourage you to set up and stick to a daily schedule, and where possible, work alongside your child. For example, if you are working from home then set up a desk where you can both work independently, but together. The sooner you do this, the better.

Will my child be given feedback on their work?

It is unrealistic for all children to receive individual feedback on every single piece of work they complete. Where possible, during normal school hours staff will be available to communicate with the children and provide feedback and help on the work that they are being asked to complete. You will find a list of all staff emails on our website (these have been sent to you previously). We are keen to hear from you and your child. Please let your class teachers know what you have been up too, they are keen to stay connected with you and your families.

What if school is closed for a very long period of time?

We firmly believe it is important that all students are supported and encouraged to keep up their studies but appreciate that this will become increasingly challenging the longer the

period out of school is. The best way to maintain it in the medium to long term is to introduce a daily schedule from day one so that this becomes your family's 'new normal'. There are a plethora of online resources they can access and you will find a useful list on our school website under the Coronavirus tab. We are currently working on updating resources for after the Easter holidays. You will be informed when these will become available. Once the children return to school, we know that there will be gaps in their learning and our staff will plan the curriculum accordingly to address these. There is nothing to worry about here!

How much work should my child be doing?

The Worple home learning grid is available on our school website and this was sent out to all families. Please do use this as a guide for how much work to provide for your son/daughter. Written or academic work is best set for the morning, whilst arts and crafts for the afternoon. There are huge amounts of online resources available many of which are listed on our school website. Again, these can be overwhelming. If you find something that you and your child likes and this is manageable, stick with it. We are also in the process of establishing a new twitter account- '@WorplePurple', which we hope to be able to keep vibrant and alive with your help. We are keen to post and tweet what the Worple community is getting up to over the next few weeks. Further details about this will be shared with you over the coming weeks.

SATs Assessments for Year 6

All end of year national tests have been cancelled. We are still waiting to hear from the department for education what this will mean for schools and families.

How can I motivate my child?

The truth is, it is going to be very difficult. The more locked down society becomes, the harder it is going to get. But, as this happens, it only becomes increasingly important for them to focus and engage with their learning on a daily basis. Try to find ways of rewarding them. Find their "carrot" for your "stick". It's going to be difficult but there is bound to be something that you can find to help motivate them even if it's only small. If they produce a truly brilliant piece of work, please encourage them to email this to their class teacher, so that we can see the great work they are doing. Encourage them to work collaboratively, online with their friends if you have access to other parent's details, so that they can keep up with as many peer interactions as they can.

I am incredibly proud of my child, they have really risen to the challenge, what can I do?

Let us know! We want to hear about all the positives so that we can share them amongst our community including on social media – this is an excellent way of motivating each other. Encourage them to email their class teacher, with a copy of the work or a photo of themselves with the work and a short description, if appropriate.

Finally....

Please, please, please follow the social distance and self-isolation guidance. Do not let your child go out and socialise with their friends. Do not let them have friends over to socialise. Minimise the amount of time they are in contact with anyone outside your household. We all need to play our part in ensuring the virus doesn't spread further than it has to.

On behalf of the whole school community can I also thank the staff for all that they are trying to do at this very difficult time for everyone.

Thank you for all that you are doing at home already. Please continue to keep in touch.

Best wishes

Marais Leenders
Executive Head teacher

