

22 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

KS1 Newsletter Summer Term 2020

Welcome back from the Easter break. We hope that you have enjoyed it as much as possible under the circumstances. The weather was certainly kind to us!

We are writing to update you on our KS1 approach to learning while the children remain at home.

Firstly, we would like to say thank you for your support in these difficult times and thank you for supporting your children with their home learning. Our aim is to provide tasks that will help children to consolidate existing knowledge but also help to move their learning forward, gaining new knowledge, while we are away from school. However, we completely understand that maintaining learning at home is not easy! Some of us have school age children at home so have first-hand experience. We appreciate that some of you may be out at work and some may be trying to work from home. Some of you may be struggling to motivate children to focus on their learning away from school. We'd like to reassure you that we will continue to set work remotely for as long as is needed, and whilst we would encourage you to complete as much as you can, we are not here to judge or police who is completing tasks and when. We understand that for various reasons, it may not be possible to complete tasks on the day they are set or indeed at all. Please do not let this become a cause of anxiety for you or your children - your wellbeing is of upmost importance and we will do all we can to help children catch up on anything they have missed when we return to school.

Our main approach to home learning in KS1 will continue to be through Purple Mash, where activities will be set through the blogs and 2Dos. Purple Mash provides children with teaching inputs and guidance through the blogs, links to videos, PowerPoints etc., which assist with the learning. In addition, a range of tasks can be set through this system, such as games, quizzes, written tasks, which the children find enjoyable. A further benefit to Purple Mash is that pupils and teachers can communicate through the blog. Teachers are also able to give feedback on the children's work for motivation and encouragement, whilst enabling them to feel connected to the school. A timetable of the activities can be found on the school's website and is included in the weekly home learning pack.

If you do not have your Purple Mash login details, please contact the school office and they it will be sent it to you.

You may have seen in the news that the BBC (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>) and The National Oak Academy (<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/schedule>) have now made home learning resources available. These are great resources but they don't necessarily fit with our summer term topic themes, so we will continue to plan and set our own work via Purple Mash, although we may use some of these resources where relevant.

For anyone wishing to do additional work, either of these would be excellent to use.

This term KS1 have new themes as follows:

Year 1 – ‘Wild and Wonderful’ focusing on Australia

Year 2 – ‘Home Sweet Home’ focusing on our local area

You will find our parent curriculum map attached and on our website, for more information about your child's summer theme. Whilst we will try to follow the curriculum map as much as possible, it may be necessary to adapt the learning content in order to make the provision and materials more accessible to you at home. Therefore, the weekly learning may reflect slightly different learning coverage than the curriculum map indicates.

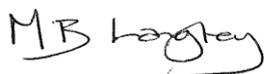
We appreciate that not all households will be able to access Purple Mash, therefore, we will continue to create home learning packs. The home learning packs offer another form of home learning, although please note that you are not expected to complete both the online learning and the home learning packs. Home learning packs are available for collection from the school office or can be downloaded/printed from the school's website. Therefore, going forward, to avoid confusion and wasted paper, we will only be producing the printed home learning packs for families who specifically request them. **If you would like to continue to receive a printed home pack, then please let the office know ASAP.**

Finally, we would like to make you aware that over the coming weeks families may receive a call from their class teacher. The aim of these calls is to let the children hear a familiar voice (don't worry if they go shy.... it might be a little strange for some to speak to their teacher on the phone!), provide some encouragement and offer support to both children and parents.

So, please do let us know if you need to continue to receive a printed pack. If you have any queries at any point, please don't hesitate to contact the class teacher via the Purple Mash blog or via the school office e-mail.

Stay safe everyone and keep in contact, we love to hear from you. We look forward to seeing your smiley faces when school reopens.

Yours sincerely



Mary Langley and The KS1 Team