

22 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **KS2 Newsletter Summer Term 2020**

Welcome back from the Easter break. We hope that you have enjoyed it as much as possible under the circumstances.

We are writing to update you on our KS2 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 well being 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.

In KS2, we are pleased with how our approach using Purple Mash has been going, and will continue to create blogs and set tasks via Purple Mash. 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 Purplemash, 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.

So far, we have set tasks on Purple Mash and also produced printed home learning packs for all children. However, having 2 systems running has led to a little confusion. We believe that the the Purple mash online learning is the best approach for KS2 children for a number of reasons:

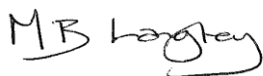
1. We are able to provide the children with a teaching input and guidance through what we write in our blogs, links to videos, powerpoints etc.
2. We are able to set tasks using a range of formats e.g. quizzes, games, written tasks, that will hopefully be enjoyable for the children.
3. We are able to provide feedback to the children and reward them, which will hopefully be motivational and help them to feel connected with school.

Most people do seem to be able to access the online learning but we appreciate that some people do not have the devices and internet connection necessary and are relying on the printed packs. 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Langley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and 'L'.

Mary Langley and the KS2 Team