

Tuesday 14th April 2020.

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a lovely Easter despite the current restrictions and are staying safe and well and enjoying the sunshine.

Our summer term begins on Wednesday 15th April and at the moment, there is no indication from the government as to how long the lockdown and the partial closure of schools will remain in force. Until we receive such information, we will continue to set home learning tasks on the eschools platform.

As the term starts with a three-day week, we have decided to set some English and maths challenges for both Key Stages 1 and 2 to ease everyone back into learning. These will be uploaded to the eschools platform and available on Wednesday morning. There are 20 challenges for each subject so plenty to choose from and it would be great if the children could do two or three from each. There is no expectation for these to be uploaded but if they would like to share some of the activities they have done, I would love to see them. The plan for the remaining weeks is included below.

The main method of communication this term will be via the eschools platform where the children can message me directly. They are also able to message their friends on the platform if they wish however, I would ask that you keep an eye on this – I am able to monitor all the messages that are sent and would be able to turn off this feature if it causes any issues.

If you have any questions or there is something that you think I should be aware of, you can email me directly via my school address – karen.barlow@thelink.academy

Thank you for your support during these difficult times.

Regards,

Karen Barlow.

Home learning for the week beginning Monday 20th April until

Each week, there will be a number of activities available on a Monday morning for the children to complete over the course of the week.

I appreciate that home learning will be different in each household – there is not a ‘one size fits all solution’ – so the activities that have been set will hopefully be able to slot in to your family’s current situation. I would encourage the children to do a little bit, often, so that they are still engaged in the daily routine of learning. You are not there to try and make your children progress their learning – you are there to try and keep their learning ticking over.

Daily reading:



It would be great if the children could read for at least 20 minutes per day. Reading can take many forms. As well as their go-to fiction and non-fiction books they could read newspapers, magazines, leaflets, recipes, letters and emails from family members, shopping lists, food labels, packaging or instructions. A number of book extracts from www.lovereading4kids.co.uk have been uploaded if they are looking for some reading inspiration and a reading challenge sheet is also there to encourage them to read about different things or in different places.

Daily spellings:

The spelling list that has been uploaded contains over 1000 spellings so everyone should be able to find 10 a week to practise! You may want to do a quick test with your child to choose the spellings for the week or they may already have an idea which spelling patterns they struggle with so focus on those. The spelling menu that we use in class has also been uploaded so they can use a range of strategies to help them learn.

English:

The English activities for the week are based on short animations which we regularly use in class for writing. For each animation, the children need to complete the introductory activity (which is just a conversation with someone about what they have watched), three of the five activities (which includes a variety of writing, research and drawing) and then the 'final write' which is a longer piece of writing. The activities and final write need to be uploaded to the eschools platform by the end of the week and the children will receive feedback the following week.

**Maths**

The maths activity mats are for the children to recap the learning they have done so far this academic year as well as in their previous year so there may be some areas that they are unsure of or can't remember. The MyMaths website has lots of online lessons that you can use by searching for a specific subject but Google is also a great place to look. There are five-minute fluency, reasoning or times tables tasks to complete each day if possible to keep them ticking over. For those who want more, some challenges have also been added. All answers are provided so nothing needs to be uploaded to be checked and there is also a primary maths dictionary to help with terminology.

Weekly learning project:

The learning project contains a number of activities related to a picture that can be done over the course of a week. There are some initial guided reading style questions to accompany the photograph and then a number of opportunities for the children to 'be detectives.' The children can be as creative as they like when approaching these activities and even make up their own linked to the theme. These activities (in whichever format) need to be uploaded to the eschools platform by the end of the week and the children will receive feedback the following week.

**Science:**

A number of science challenges have been uploaded using items that you may have lying around the house. It would be great to see photos of the successes (or failures!)

SPaG:

An A4 challenge sheet will be uploaded each week with a different focus. As with the maths, the purpose of these are to recap skills that have already been learnt.

Health and Wellbeing:

The Get Active sheet gives you some ideas on activities you can do at home. Exercise improves physical health but it can also positively impact on mental health. The wellbeing checklist is also something you can use for ideas on how to improve mental health during this time.

