



Alfred Street Junior School

Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 9YS

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Telephone: 01933 353762
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Headteacher: Mrs K O'Connor
School Business Manager: Mrs Debbie Heffernan

20th April 2020

Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all adjusting to life at home during this difficult time. I am aware that many of you are in different positions with regards to supporting your children with home learning due to availability of devices, work space, or your own 'working from home' needs. Many of you may be wondering how you should manage your normal daily tasks, as well as trying to support children to carry on with their learning. I want you to know that it is not our expectation that your children are sat all day long doing school work, or for you to be teaching them. You are at home – this can be difficult in itself. The children are potentially feeling unsettled that they are not in their usual learning environment, and are away from their peers.

In terms of home learning, we will continue to set the children suggestions of things that they can do at home as independently as possible. We do feel it is important that the children continue to practise and revisit the skills they have already learnt, in order to help them retain their learning and keep their skills fresh. We are concerned that this situation could go on for many weeks and if the children do not do any formal learning, not only will they have missed many weeks of the curriculum, but they may also slip back in their learning. Some children will also find that the routine of doing some school work each day settles them and makes them less anxious. I appreciate that change is difficult for us all. I am currently adjusting to working from home at times, keeping school open for key worker children and trying to entertain a very active and energetic 4-year-old who does not stop talking! So I do not underestimate the challenge that many of you are facing, and it is certainly not my intention to put any pressure on to you or your child. We simply ask that you do what you can and make things work for your own circumstances.

We also appreciate that the children may not have access to the internet or ICT equipment all day, and that many of you may also be trying to work from home, so we have tried to set work that does not require too much internet access. However, if they do have access to the internet for periods of time and are keen to do more work, we have also made suggestions of things they can do online too.

Create - Learn - Progress
There is no limit!



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Learning Packs:

The children have been provided with a range of work within these packs. These packs are not to be completed in one go - we envisage that they last the next 6 weeks should the situation continue. It is our way of providing a range of activities and learning resources to try and make the situation easier for all. Please dip in and out as much as you feel you can as a family. You may also want to space the activities out throughout the day and mix in with social time. We would recommend that **each week** the children as a minimum try to complete the following:

- 1 reading activity from the Reading Pack
- 1 grammar and punctuation activity from the Grammar and Punctuation Pack
- 1 spelling activity from the Spelling Pack
- 1 writing task from the Pobble Writing Pack
- Read a book from home or a free e-book if they have access to the internet on:
<https://readon.myon.co.uk/library/browse.html>
- 3-4 pages of maths from the Maths Pack
- Practise times tables in their Times Table Book
- Choose some activities from the Topic Menu that they are interested in or able to access from home.
- If at all possible, we would also encourage them to visit our online subscriptions on Spelling Shed, Maths Shed and Purple Mash at least once a week (logins are in their reading records).

Please note that we have also tried to differentiate the packs to the ability of the children so that they need minimal input from adults. However, if your child finds reading a challenge, they may need some support with reading the instructions.

We have also included in the pack an optional Time Capsule activity, as this is a period of time that will make history.

On our website, there is also a list of additional websites and activities for all curriculum areas and a timetable of live learning should the children want to visit them. The BBC are also going to be putting on educational programmes as of this week.

Family Time:

You are the most important people to your children. They enjoy your time together and engagement. If you are able to try and build in some special family time together – watch a film, cook a meal, have a picnic in the garden, make something together - it will help to make special memories out of a difficult situation.

Keeping in touch:

This is an extremely challenging time for everyone and there is no right or wrong way to handle the situation. Please remember to be kind to yourselves and that we are all here to support you and your children. We are missing the children immensely and will be doing our bit to keep in touch with you all via Facebook, Parent App, phone calls and our class blogs on Purple Mash, where the children can also chat safely to their peers.

Please stay safe.

Mrs K O'Connor

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