

Feedback from Parent Forum 24.4.20

Thank you to all who sent in comments and questions for the virtual parent council forum this week. Again, it is important to stress that we are not expecting you to be your child's class teacher, however keeping to a routine and accessing the work where and when appropriate, will help your child be ready for when we return to school.

From the questions or comments I received, I have put information under the following headings:

The curriculum and move to on-line resources:

Looking at all the photos and work described through the Homelearning email, it looks like lots of you have had a good go at our British Isles topic and come up with all sorts of fabulous activities. It is absolutely fine that families focused on one area across the different year groups their children are in. We fully appreciate that each child working on different work can be tricky to manage - a collaborative approach is certainly useful.

Going forward, we have decided to distribute our work through an on-line system. A group of teachers investigated all the different options and we followed Government advice and have written an extra school policy on Online Teaching and Learning, which can be accessed through our website at <https://www.tatworth.somerset.sch.uk/parent-informaiton/policiies-and-documents/>

Class Dojo is a platform which allows for tasks and activities to be distributed and in addition allows for teachers to also communicate with families. The advice we sought when making the decision to use an online resource, confirmed that children can feel isolated when not in a classroom environment. However, by having online communications with their teacher, children can still feel connected to school and will be more motivated to keep up with their learning. Class teachers will continue to email and phone children to catch up, as well as send messages and acknowledge work on Tapestry for Reception and Class Dojo for the rest of school.

Please remember, any wellbeing concerns should be communicated through the Homelearning email address or the school email, and please contact me directly if there are any safeguarding concerns – details are on the school website.

Supporting children working at home:

Sticking to a routine is always a helpful way of getting children to take part in activities but we all learn in a number of different ways and not all learning needs to take place sat at a table

It may also still help to have all children in the household completing a similar task at the same time, which is fine.

We agree, as time goes on it is difficult to motivate learners to keep going. Try and encourage independence. Perhaps suggest you phone a friend from their class or

email their teachers, if they are unsure about the work. There are also some fantastic resources on BBC bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> that may support you and your child. If, despite looking it

up and asking for help from friends or a teacher, it is still inaccessible, it is fine to move onto some other work.

If you run out of exercise books, then please let us know - we can easily put out a book to be collected as you pass past the school building on your daily exercise.

A few parents have been asking us about how much work they should be sharing on here. It would be good to see at least two or three pieces of work from each child each week. Some parents have been sending more, which is great as we know from parents that it can be a real boost to children's enthusiasm and motivation to get their work done if they receive a message back from us. So if you want to send us one or two pieces a day, then that's fine, and we will certainly reply to the children about them as much as we can. But also, if you have a few days and haven't shared anything, then please don't worry. The main thing that we want is for your children to be busy and happy - the priority is not about sharing photos! Please do get in touch via the homelearning.sch331@educ.somerset.gov.uk email address if you are concerned about something and would like to discuss it via email with us.

It is really hard work trying to make my child work. They don't want to. Can I send them into school so they have to work?

No. School is currently for a very small number of students. We understand how difficult it is trying to be a teacher, parent, and continue to work and cook and clean and we will offer you all the remote support that we can. If your child can safely be at home, this is the most appropriate place for them. If you have any concerns about getting your child to work please contact their class teacher for support and guidance via the homelearning email address.