

**WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORATE**

Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Parkes
E-mail: office@dodford.worcs.sch.uk
Website: www.dodford.worcs.sch.uk
Chair of Governors: Dr. Jonathan Shapiro



DODFORD FIRST SCHOOL

**FOCKBURY ROAD
DODFORD
BROMSGROVE
(01527) 831569**

Remote Learning Expectations

Dear Parents,

After two weeks of lockdown and all of us adjusting back into school being 'closed', the staff have had a chance to reflect on the home learning they have been providing and the feedback and information they are receiving off you as parents.

The government have set out guidelines for all schools to approach this period of lockdown differently to the last, ensuring that schools, in their provision, are providing planned, sequences of learning which are built around the basics and that build on previous learning. This will ensure children are accessing a range of subjects across the curriculum and making progress, especially in English and maths.

The provision for those children accessing home learning should be mirrored with work occurring in school and therefore the government have stated the amount of work which should be planned for is approximately 3 hours a day for Reception and Years 1 and 2 and 4 hours a day in Years 3 and 4.

All of this combined, means that the staff are working extremely hard to plan sequences that contain clear instructions and advice/support for our parents at home as they are aware that we are unable to offer lessons, as you would with older children and in larger schools, where one teacher in a year would take the lead on the home schoolers and the other take care of those children in school. We are conscious of those parents trying to home school and work from home and so have tried to build in a range of activities, some needing more support than others and for those in Years 3 and 4, after some instruction, can be done independently. The staff have found lessons to match the sequences through the Oak National Academy and the BBC and have tried to balance screen time with activities that are completed on paper or from their text books.

It is also important to note, that there is no expectation for parents to run a 'school day' of 9am to 3pm at home (this would be unmanageable for yourselves). Remember that a school day has lots of breaks built in and times when children aren't sat at a desk, so you need to build in these breaks and times to stretch their legs/exercise, like they would do so at school. Completing the work in a way that fits around your schedules is perfectly fine and again we have tried to balance the amount of work that needs to be completed on that day with other units of work or projects which can be done when time allows, possibly even a hour or two at the weekend if needs be. A focus should be placed on the maths and English work which is sent daily as missing a day here and there with these subjects will mean that your child will fall behind in the sequences. Parents of children who are accessing school on a part time basis need to make sure that their child completes the daily work in between on the days they are at home, otherwise when they come back into the classroom they will not be in the right place to carry on the learning which has been planned for that day by the teacher. Neither should children be jumping too far ahead, if work is to be completed over a whole week, concluding on a Friday, then completing it on day one, will mean when your child is in school, they may end up repeating parts to fall in line with the teacher's plans for that day. If your child is completing project/topic work at home, then this is not such a concern as they can complete it to suit you as long as they submit it into school by the deadline date.

Parents have sent messages in about how they are providing additional work from other sources for their child, which is great, as long as the work planned for your child by the class teacher takes priority and is completed. As in all areas of the curriculum, the basics are taught and built upon in such a way so that gaps do not appear in their knowledge and work is age appropriate.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has been sending in their child's work via the keepingintouch@ email address or Evidence Me for our reception class, it is great to see so many emails pinging through. However, we know some parents have asked about how much should you be sending through (as it can take some time to do this, taking photos and attaching these to emails – I know as I am also doing the same!) The staff do not need to see everything but they do need to be able to feedback to the children and keep our assessments up to date.

Online submissions and completion of these tasks through our platforms – Purple Mash, Education City and Bug Club can continue as they have been, staff do monitor these each week to see which children are accessing them and completing the work which has been set.

Other work, the staff have decided that they would like the following as a **minimum** sent in each week please for those children working from home. Children accessing school can bring in their work in their folders or will completing the tasks whilst in school.

Reception/Wrens class – 2 pieces of phonics work and 2 maths and if a project or task is set, send this in when completed. A copy of their reading from their reading diary.

Years 1 and 2/Robins class – if working towards a writing piece – the finished piece and one other piece of English work, 2 maths and finished tasks and projects. A copy of their reading from their reading diary.

Years 3 and 4/Owls class – if working towards a writing piece – the finished piece and one other piece of English work, 2 maths and finished tasks and projects. A copy of their reading from their reading diary.

Obviously if you have any questions or want to check that your child is 'on track' with a piece and need to send these in, please do so. However, please bear in mind that staff do not want everything in as they just don't have the time to comment on several pieces of work a day for each child who is at school. Please do not be offended if your child's class teacher contacts you via email or phone, chasing for work – we are required to do this and we know there could be reasons to why this has not been achieved during that week, but we are here to listen and to help however we can.

Sorry this is so lengthy but I hope we have answered all the questions raised so far. Hopefully we can welcome all our children back into school soon. Keep up the great work!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L. Parkes