



Kirk Merrington Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term

April 2020

We hope you are all well and keeping safe. As you can imagine school is a very strange place with such small numbers. We miss the children immensely but naturally appreciate keeping them at home is in everyone's best interest. We are running on a skeleton staff with several having to shield and stay at home. Like yourselves, we will await news about when we might be back.

Until this time, we need to manage home learning in the best way for your child. Many parents report stressful situations at home and confrontations with reluctant children. This is not what we want. The well-being of everyone is of vital importance at this time. Children will be hearing lots of scary news and may be anxious about parents and family members working. If they are happy and settled we can address any gaps in education when they return to school. Please do not worry about this. Do what you can. Any little things you do will help and I know the children are doing lots of other things which are valuable life skills. Education is not just Maths and English.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns you might have.

Take care Mrs Murray

Home Learning:

We have enjoyed seeing the vast variety of things the children are doing at home. Please keep the emails and Dojo messages coming!

We have directed you to online resources such as BBC Bitesize and the White Rose Maths lessons- these are excellent resources and can be completed every day. We have deliberately given you flexibility for you to do what suits your child best so school is not putting pressure on you.

If your child needs more- let us know.

If your child needs the accountability from school- let us know

If your child needs rewards- let us know

Top Tips:

Agree a set timetable with your child and stick to it whenever possible.

Include lots of breaks.

Children respond to rewards- we can give Dojos or I hear earning screen time for every completed task works well!

Send work to teachers to give children a real purpose

Send us work for the Facebook page

Transition:

The secondary schools have now all been in contact with us to gather information about the children. This will help to inform their forms and groupings for September. I am guessing that they will assess the children when they start to decide on sets etc. This is why it is important for Year 6 to still be completing some work where they can.

Unfortunately, at this time none of them are able to say what transition visits might look like.

Class letters

We have now finalised the classes for September.

We will be having a pure Year 6 class but will continue to have the Year 3/4 mix and the 4/5 mix. As you know this is due to our awkward numbers and the limited teaching spaces we have.

We will send an email next week with the class letters attached.

Reports

Staff are working on a slim-lined version of a written report which you will receive in the last half term as normal.

Phone calls home

Staff are happy to give you a call if needed- or if you would like them to speak to your child.

Please Dojo message them to agree a mutually convenient time.

Please be mindful that staff are not in school every day but are picking up your messages from home.

The Local Authority have issued schools with Safeguarding guidance today about using Microsoft Teams to speak to children. We will start to consider how this might work for us moving forward.

Suggested Daily Timetable:

9:00 Joe Wicks or Just Dance (Something active to wake up the body)

10:00 White Rose Maths lesson or similar

Break- snack

11:00 English task- try to include some sentence work if you can

Break

1:00 topic work from the school grid

Break

2:00 BBC Bitesize activities or topic work of their choice of something they are interested in.

2:30- children to choose!

Reading at bedtime is vital- please try to maintain this.

Remember children can only concentrate for 20-30 minutes.

They should be able to complete tasks independently.

Realistically anything over 2 hours of work at home in a day would be a bonus!

Children know you are not their teacher, you are their parent.

Expect good days and bad days.

If children (or you) are frustrated just stop! Change activity, have a break or leave it.

If your older child is better in the afternoon- leave them to chill in the morning and work later instead.

We know not all children have access to laptops or these need to be shared.

If you need us to help with printing paper copies- let us know.

Mathletics

Here's the Top 10 for Mathletics for last week (20.4.20 - 26.4.20) it's calculated on Total Points, including Activity and Live Points:

- 1) Jenson Irvine
- 2) Gracie Collingwood
- 3) Amalia Costello
- 4) Isaac Robinson
- 5) Eleanor Kay-Fletcher
- 6) Ben Kay-Worrall
- 7) Ben Robinson
- 8) Sophia Lee
- 9) Romano Rowell
- 10) Maiya Brown

Well done children- good to see your Maths brain still being used!

Useful websites:

BBC Bitesize

Oak National Academy

Hamilton Trust

Literacy Trust

Twinkl

Purple Mash

For Reception and Year 1- Phonics Play

**There is so much out there- we are just wanting to give you options if needed!*