



Wickham Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The teachers are currently preparing some further home learning activities to send out to you later this week. Some of you will welcome this extra work and the structure that it continues to bring to your day. Others will view this as further unwelcome pressure, at a time when you are already struggling to juggle the demands that this period of lockdown brings.

I wanted to write this letter so that all parents are clear on the expectations around completing any learning that we send home. Some of you (and your children) will wish to complete everything, whereas others will opt to complete bits and pieces, when you have the opportunity to do so. I want to reassure you that either choice is absolutely fine and is personal to you and your family.

I want to be clear that you should not be worrying or putting yourself under any pressure to complete every activity sent home. No matter how hard you try, you are not going to be able to recreate the same environment that the children get when they come into school so please don't feel like you should. This is not the priority at the minute.

We are in uncharted territories and we still have no idea how long this is going to last. You will be experiencing many worries coming from lots of different places at the moment and the main priority from me as a headteacher, from us as a school and from you as a parent should be your child's health and wellbeing. We are setting lots of different tasks and they are there for the children to complete if you (and they) wish to but they are not the priority. The priority is to keep your child safe and happy.

Don't think about it as 'home schooling', think of it more as 'home learning'. Encourage your child to read as much as they can and read to them often as well. There are plenty of online resources out there and our teachers are spending time ensuring that the ones we recommend to you on our website and in our Facebook group are the very best. It is very easy to become lost and overwhelmed by what is on offer.

Please don't feel under any pressure to do a certain number of hours a day. While the weather is like it is, get outside in the fresh air and get active! Join in with the Joe Wicks workout, do some baking, learn how to tie shoelaces. Use this time to build relationships and connect with your child.

The priority at the moment is our children's wellbeing. We're all in the same boat and if the children do regress academically, then we'll pick them back up when we return to school. That's what we do best! We'll get them to where they need to be so don't worry too much about that at the moment. The priority is to look after your children. They'll be worried that they're not seeing their friends and their teachers. Focus on keeping them safe and happy and do not panic about home schooling.

We have now updated our website and all home learning can be found under 'Teaching and Learning - Home Learning'. The menu is now divided into year groups and there is also a separate page on 'Keeping Fit & Healthy' (including mental health). These will be update regularly. We understand that we are never going to achieve the perfect balance, which works for all parents in terms of what we send out, but please remember that you can get in touch with your child's class teacher for further guidance and work specifically for your child whenever you need to. Just give us a call or send an email (adminoffice@wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk) and we will be very happy to help in any way that we can.

Stay positive and stay safe.

Graham Cutter
Headteacher