

SCHOOL CLOSURE GUIDANCE



Firstly, we appreciate that this is a very challenging time, not just for the pupils but for the adults who are now supporting children at home.

This guidance will hopefully give you some help in terms of ensuring that your child continues to learn whilst they are not able to attend school.

Don't try to be a teacher!

Obviously, many of us are not teachers, but are suddenly faced with the prospect of educating our own children. However, teachers have set work which can be accessed via the school website on the class pages. Please focus on getting your child to do these tasks.

Try to plan a structured day

In school, children learn from 9.00am to 3.25pm. We realise that it is impossible to recreate a school day in a non-school environment. There are far more distractions at home, and of course it looks and feels very different to school!

- Where possible, try to plan the day so that certain times are set aside for working on the tasks that have been set by teachers. Children are far more likely to focus if their day is structured rather than ad-hoc.
- Build in breaks.
- Allow some independent learning time, where children can access educational websites (there are lots on the "Useful Websites" section).

- The BBC are increasing the number of educational programmes. Allow the children to watch these either live or via the BBC Iplayer.
- CBBC Newsround will allow the children to keep up-to-date with the news. It is a huge talking point, and many children want to know what is happening.
- Set aside some time for reading. This should involve reading by themselves, or an adult hearing them read where possible.
- Allow some time for exercise, as long as you are complying with current guidance regarding social distancing / isolation.
- Joe Wicks (The Body Coach) is producing daily fitness videos (see useful weblinks)

Extra Resources

Please see the list of websites that have been provided on the "Useful Websites" section. Twinkl, in particular, has a huge bank of resources, all of which are searchable by subject / year group.

Keep their brains ticking over!

It is important that children get an opportunity to use their brains for learning each day. We know that it is not the same as being in school, but the more they can keep their minds active, the easier it will be when they do eventually return to school.

Talk and Keep Talking!

This is a stressful and challenging time for all, and it is vital that you talk to your child about how they are feeling. Many children may be worried about things such as:

- Catching coronavirus.
- Adults who are going to work.
- Not seeing their friends
- Missing out on learning

Remember that children will be spending more time at home than what they have ever been used to, so this may also cause issues with being bored or having arguments with siblings and even parents.

So **keep talking**. Ask how each other is feeling.

There are some well-being and mindfulness exercises on the school website, which can be used to support your child. There are also resources / help on the NSPCC site for children or adults who may be struggling to cope.

Support from school

You have been supplied with an email address which enables you to get in touch with your child's class teacher. If you need any support or advice on how to best help your child whilst they are at home, feel free to get in touch. This is very much a team effort between parents and the school. Do not feel that you are on your own.

Other Support

The School Run website has lots of information and ideas for supporting children: <https://www.theschoolrun.com/>

Government Advice (regularly updated) on coronavirus:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>