



Newsletter 11th June 2020

The Government have acknowledged this week that it is not possible for all pupils to return to school before the end of term in less than six weeks' time. Headteachers have been given the responsibility to decide what is manageable and safe for each school and its community. Every school is unique and has its own set of circumstances. It is always very tricky to draw comparisons, especially when pupil numbers, class organisation and staffing levels vary widely. We are working under difficult circumstances and we also appreciate that these continue to be anxious times for all families around the country. Please be assured that we are doing our very best for all members of the school community and as reflective practitioners we discuss and review our plans on a regular basis. We are currently waiting for further guidance from the DfE to help us plan until the end of term.

The children who are in school have been getting used to being at school again. They are having short sessions of Maths and English and we are doing a lot of PSHE and spending as much time outside as we can. This is certainly not 'normal' school.

Home learning

Currently for home learning we are directing you towards BBC Bitesize Daily for structured Maths and English lessons. There is a Maths and English lesson for every weekday for Year 1 to Year 6. These are planned lessons covering the National Curriculum. They often include a video starter and then have two or three written activities. There are also weekly Science lessons for each year group and a variety of other foundation subject lessons. This is what we are now advising you to do for planned activities.

This link allows you to see what daily lessons are coming up, often a couple of weeks in advance.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/bitesize-daily-lessons-schedule/zdtwjhv>

You can use this link to help you find daily lesson for each weekday and those that have already been uploaded.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

Oak National Academy are also providing daily structured lessons for English and Maths, again following the National Curriculum. This is also a government backed scheme.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/year-groups/> Oak Academy has lots of EYFS activities for Reception age children.

The DfE have also provided links to other online education resources for home learning, which parents might find useful. This can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources> Both of these schemes are easy to navigate and provide all of the resources needed for daily lessons.

We also continue to post many ideas for less structured activities as we have been doing since March. Please do let us know via ClassDojo how you have been getting on. You can find guidance about History and Geography topic on the school website if you haven't yet chosen a topic for your interest led project:

<http://www.sandon.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-coverage> Spelling information can also be found on the website in the parents' area.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and you would like them to return to school next week we need to know today please. Please call or email the school office. Going forward we need to know by 3pm on a Wednesday that you would like your child to return the following Monday. This is so that we can prepare resources. Please call or email the school office.

Talking to children about diversity and anti-racism

Events in the USA and closer to home have once again shown the importance of teaching about the anti-racism and diversity. Below is a list of resources that may be helpful in conversations you have in your family about the reasons why people are protesting and what we can all do to have a better understanding of one another as humans.

What If We Were All the Same by C. M. Harris which is a book about helping children understand the beauty of having friends who are different from them and how our differences make us unique.

Skin Again by Bell Hooks, a book about celebrating what makes us unique and different.

Not Like The Others by Jana Broecker, a book about diversity, acceptance, understanding and kindness.

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o, a book about colourism featuring a girl Sulwe who is darker than everyone in her family and school and who learns true beauty comes from within.

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman following a group of children through a day at school where diversity is strength.

I Am Human: A Book of Empathy by Susan Verde which is about a celebration of empathy and compassion, encouraging children to see themselves as part of one big imperfect family millions strong.

The following website has a number of books which may be relevant, though they are American based and so I am not sure of availability in the UK.

<https://bookroo.com/books/topics/race-relations>

Lantana Publishing do a number of books which promote equality and is a very good source of suitable books.

<https://lantanapublishing.com/>

Assemblies this week:

Monday	Daisy and the trouble with zoos – Chapter 4
Tuesday	Daisy and the trouble with zoos – Chapter 5
Wednesday	Daisy and the trouble with zoos – Chapter 6
Thursday	Daisy and the trouble with zoos – Chapter 7
Friday	Daisy and the trouble with zoos – Chapter 8

Philosophy for Children

Thoughtful Conversations for Families Week 8

<https://dialogueworks.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Hometalk-week-8.pdf>

Activities for all ages from 3 years old upwards