



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

27th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID 19 - Keeping in Touch

As we come to the end of the first week of closure in terms of our normal provision and of our current restricted school provision, I just wanted to touch base with you all to say a huge thank you to all of you. It goes without saying that we are hugely grateful to our key worker parents that are supporting during the current situation, thank you for all you are doing at this difficult time. Thank you also to all of you who are working at home but keeping your children safe. This is also very much appreciated and will hopefully allow us to continue our restricted provision offer for as long as possible. Believe me, I do know that the current situation is far from easy. Day to day we are dealing with challenges that we have not faced previously. Many people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening at the moment. I appreciate this potentially includes managing the work that has been sent home for your child. I wanted to just give my perspective on it all as a Head Teacher and I hope this can help with that somewhat.

A few points to note first:

- 1) This is not homeschooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting on the whole world. Let's keep perspective. Homeschooling is a choice, you made that decision for your child. You then plan for it and you are your child's school teacher in whatever form you choose. This is, at best, distance learning.
- 2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and is going to spend the entire period playing in the dirt, or baking, or watching TV, then that is your choice. That is your right. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.
- 3) Schools are dealing with this situation in much the same way, taking each day as it comes. They had no notice, no preparation time and we were clearly told not to 'continue to plan lessons as normal and just send them home' – that's simply not possible. If it were, we'd all be out of a job!
- 4) It is absolutely not possible to facilitate distance learning with a primary aged child and work from home at the same time. The very idea is nonsense. If you're trying to do that, stop now. You can certainly have activities where your child learns, but your focus is your job, and survival. Again, unprecedented. Stop trying to be superheroes.

So, a few Frequently Asked Questions:

School has sent home lots of physical work. How am I supposed to get through it all?

You're not, don't try. Your child's teacher spent time gathering things to send home to support during this period, activities that can be undertaken to practice and consolidate prior learning, things to have a go at.



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School are intending to send home further links and emails with more work. How do I manage this?

See above. These are suggestions and ideas because the school is worried they're not offering enough. Use them if they suit you, don't if they don't suit.

Someone in my child's class has everything done and we've barely started. Will they fall behind?

Even if everything were equal in terms of support, time and number of children (which it's not) all children learn at different rates. In the class there's a wide range of levels in all subjects, there's different paces and there are many children working on differentiated levels of work. It's almost impossible for teachers to differentiate at the moment, so you don't have to do it either.

Your child will not fall behind. This is all revision and reminder work or exploration of things they might find interesting. If children could all learn new concepts without specific teaching, we wouldn't need teachers. They will cover all of this again, multiple times.

I'm not doing any work with my kids. All they're doing is building Lego, cooking and playing outside.

All of this is learning – very valuable learning. Give yourself and them a break.

How can I get three different lots of work done with 3 different children of different ages?

You can't, stop trying. If they're old enough, try to get them to do little bits independently. Otherwise try to do something they can all engage with, reading a story together, some free writing, baking etc.

My ideal for the children at SPCEDS:

- 🏠 Daily reading (hear them read each day but also share a book, read together, listen to an audiobook);
- 🏠 Some free writing. If they'll keep a diary or write a story, great. If not, would they draw a comic, write a shopping list, anything to get them to engage with writing;
- 🏠 Practical hands on maths, could be cooking, cleaning, outside or some maths games, physical or digital;
- 🏠 Some fine motor work. Lego, cutting, playdough, tidying up small toys;
- 🏠 Physical exercise every day;
- 🏠 Some art and/or music where possible throughout the week. Doesn't necessarily need to be guided.

And to stretch them:

- 🏠 If old enough getting them to independently work on a project is great for keeping brains ticking over. Get them researching in a book or online and putting together something to present to you or family;
- 🏠 If younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better.

You are doing enough. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health. Don't let this be something that stresses you. Only you can control that by accepting it is in your circle of control, you are the primary educator and this is all your call. If you do have any questions or queries or would simply like to share something, teachers can be contacted via Year Group email addresses:

FS2: FS2@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk
Year 1: Y1@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk Year 2: Y2@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk Year 3: Y3@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk
Year 4: Y4@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk Year 5: Y5@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk Year 6: Y6@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk

Alternatively, if you are on Twitter please follow us @SPCEDS (and @FS2SPCEDS, @Y1SPCEDS, @Y2SPCEDS, @Y3SPCEDS, @Y4SPCEDS, @Y5SPCEDS and @Y6SPCEDS) and tag us in when sharing something brilliant.

Thank you for your continued support. Take care and above all stay safe. We are thinking of you all!

Kind Regards,



Diane Mulley, Head Teacher



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