



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

19th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Remote Learning Top Tips

As we head into the third week of the current lockdown and our current remote learning model I thought I would just touch base with parents with some top tips to help support your child with their learning at home.

- 1) **Take an active interest in your child's learning.** Staff have spent time with the children logging into Teams and explaining how the remote learning will work however, children may still need help. Take an active interest in their learning and try to support them if they need a helping hand.
- 2) **Monitor your child's communication and online activity.** It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.
- 3) **Establish a daily schedule and routine.** Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that school have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.
- 4) **Encourage screen breaks and physical activity away from devices.** Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. The way our 'live' sessions are planned should ensure all pupils are able to take multiple breaks from the screen each day, however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.
- 5) **Ensure the device used for learning is in a space conducive to learning.** It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral, with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate. This may be a work space you already have in your home.
- 6) **Ensure your child only uses official communication channels.** It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, so via Teams or via email.



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7) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies. All schools should have a policy on remote education that they can share with parents. Ours can be found on the website with the Remote Learning Agreement (the link to this document was also sent home earlier in the week). Familiarise yourself with this so you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.

8) Maintain feedback with teachers. Engage in communication with teachers where possible, and try to feedback progress and development with regards to your child, particularly if they are finding something difficult – we are here to help you and support the learning process. Be open and honest but respectful and only use agreed channels to communicate, e.g. via the Year Group emails. Remember we all want the same thing – to help your child to learn and progress.

9) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health. Remote education will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get outdoors as much as they can, even if it is for a daily walk or a play in the garden. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends every day might take its toll.

10) Be kind to each other and to yourself. We fully acknowledge that this is a difficult time for everyone, a time like no other. There is a reason we all choose to be a working parent, a stay at home parent or a part-time working parent. Working, parenting and teaching are three different things that cannot be done at the same time. It's not hard because you are doing it wrong, it's hard because it is exactly that.

At times you may need to choose and it is fine if, on occasions, you pick playing a game over arguing about a lesson. Pick teaching your child how to help with a daily chore rather than feeling frustrated that you have so much to do and no help. Pick laughing and snuggling, and reminding them that they are safe.

Consistent routines are important for behaviour and wellbeing in school and our routines at home have changed significantly. Routines support behaviour and you will be finding a new rhythm with your family. The Education Endowment Foundation has put together this checklist that you could also share with your child. Talking to them about it may help them plan their new routines.
https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Supporting_home_learning_routines_-_Planning_the_day.pdf

We are here to help with the learning as much or as little as you need us, however there may be times when their learning is the least important thing and you will know your child best. Yes, we do want to help them progress during this difficult period but we also want them back in school as soon as this is possible, safe, well and excited about their learning.

Thank you for your continued support. If you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch, we're here to help! Take care, we can't wait until it is safe for us all to be back together again.

Kind Regards,

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