



3 April 2020

Home Learning - The Journey so Far

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, can I just say thank you! This has, without question, been one of the most uncertain and tumultuous times our school has ever faced, but everyone has come together and demonstrated what it really means to be a member of our Team SJA community. As you are all aware, relationships have always been at the heart of everything we try to do and, in a time where things are ever-changing, it has been incredible to witness the positivity and support we have all shown towards one another. In times like these, none of us can truly say we have all the answers, and there are times when we might not get everything quite right. Going forward, we will continue to value your feedback, your questions and your advice as we try to navigate the next few months together.

After our first two weeks of change, the aim of this letter is to try and reflect on where we are at this point in time and then to let you know what we will be aiming to offer moving forward.

In terms of where we are at the moment, this is our 'Home Learning Offer' at Team SJA:

1. Home Learning at SJA

Home Learning at SJA		
<p>Maths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go on Times Table Rockstars everyday - who could you challenge as a rockstar? Fluent in 5 - spend 5 minutes every day practising the four operations Create a snack sale - every snack costs and you have a limited budget, make sure you aren't being short changed! Now's the time to really practise something until you can't get it wrong - be that division, fractions or shape properties! 	<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep reading! Challenge yourself to read every day - is there someone you could call for feedback and read to? Can you learn a poem off by heart? What a great time to write to your favourite author Keep the understanding of your reading going - there are lots of comprehension activities out there (see links below - Twinkl does some great quick ones!) Tweet your recommendations of books or make a poster to advertise it! 	<p>Writing / GPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise spelling words from the National Curriculum in different ways - in sand? With chalk? Playdough? Rainbow writing? Write part of a story and send / email it to someone else to add another part to it Practise your handwriting by writing out chore lists or shopping lists Write acrostic poems about each member of your family Use images to give you ideas for your writing (Pobble 365 is great for this) - we'd love to read them!
<p>REAL Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you complete the challenges you were given at the start of the project? How about finishing the team with a reflection of how the project went? Could you do your own project? What are you passionate about? How could you share this with your teacher and class? Could you create a knowledge organiser? Here are some ideas... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorians Endangered animals Sporting legends 	<p>Indoor activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get cooking! Now is a really good time to learn how to cook a meal or bake something - maybe you could deliver this to someone who is stuck at home? Maybe you could pretend by your own restaurant and you could serve your parents? Balloon! Rockets, races, papier mache puppets - the possibilities are endless! Learn how to play a card game! Can you make your own rap or song like the Horrible Histories ones? Make a scrap book of photos and memories to cheer up a family member Learn 10 new jokes to amuse your family. Write letters to your friends Grab a cap and a book Learn a new craft LEGO! 	<p>Outdoor activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get outside and enjoy some fresh air! Can you create an obstacle course and beat your time? If you have a trampoline, can you do a sit drop? A knee drop? Who is the highest bouncer? Could you take charge of one part of the garden and make it beautiful? Go on a welly walk! Create nature pictures (like Andy Goldsworthy) Get on your bike or scooter Paint some rocks and put them out for other people to find Go on a scavenger hunt
<p>Keeping in touch</p> <p>You can follow us or tweet us @Scartho</p> <p>You can email us head@scarthojunior.co.uk or email your teacher (see website for addresses - it is the teacher's name for example nth.rose@scarthojunior.co.uk or mishko.flem@scarthojunior.co.uk)</p> <p>We are also investigating how a school we can use Google Classroom and ClassDojo to communicate with you all.</p>	<p>Online learning - we already subscribe to lots of online learning platforms - your child has a log on for these below, however if they experience any problems, please email Mrs Jennings (lisa.jennings@scarthojunior.co.uk)</p> <p>Gmail -</p> <p>Times Table Rockstars (via internet or app) -</p> <p>Purple Mash - we will be setting activities on this</p> <p>Spelling Shed -</p> <p>(Some children also have access to Reading Plus, Maths Whizz and Lexia)</p> <p>You can also check out these websites which are offering free access for children and parents during the school closure https://www.csbmschoolmat.co.uk/learning-project/ https://www.twinkl.com parent.numberfunportel.com</p>	

This is the document we sent home with all the children on the last Friday before we went into partial closure. This gives parents a wide range of activities and suggestions as to the home learning that could take place. This was designed quickly, with the aim that it would last up until the Easter break. Our approach has always been based around providing home learning that parents can take up, if they think it is important. We will not be chasing children up to see if they have completed any home learning, rather our approach will be to celebrate the learning that does take place, when families are ready. For us, home is all about providing a safe and loving environment; therefore the focus right now should be on ensuring that the children are as emotionally stable as possible at this difficult time.

2. Twitter/Emails

As a school, we have agreed that we will check in with emails and Twitter on a daily basis, although there will be times when we might be able to check in more frequently than others. Hopefully, everyone now has their class teacher's email address and Twitter handle; if you do not have this please feel free to email me or phone school. It's been great to see everything that has been going on at home via Twitter, and anything that you have shared via email. If you're not on Twitter yet, I'd advise you to create an account and see what we are all up to (but remember there is no expectation to post things yourself if you choose not to). Just remember, you don't have to post anything, you can just see what we are all doing. You could always delete Twitter once we are through this awful situation!

3. Contact Programme

Our final home learning offer is a phone call to your child from their class teacher. This will happen at least once a week and is simply aimed at providing your child with the opportunity to have a quick 1:1 chat with their teacher. At Team SJA, our learning is built on the importance of relationships and these contact calls link into this approach. Please be aware, these calls are not to check up on you or your child, or a call to make sure they are doing home learning! As we come to end of the first week of this 'Contact Programme', we feel it is having a real positive impact, both on families and staff in school. However, there are still some children that we have not had a 1:1 chat with. Please be aware that when your child's teacher



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Principal Neville Rice

phones they are withholding their phone number so it will come up as an unknown number. If your child had not had a call, please do not hesitate to contact us as we may just need to clarify contact details with you. Some children, if they are in support groups, might also have a call with one of the teaching assistants in school.

What's happening over the Easter break?

1. School Opening – We will still be partially open over the Easter Break, which will include Good Friday and Easter Monday; as, at the present moment, we will be open for what the Government term 'keyworkers'. If you have not already, please let us know if your child will be attending over this two week period - this could be for the whole of the two weeks or for certain days linked to your shifts. If your circumstances change and you have not needed us before, but now might, please contact us to see how we can help.
2. Home Learning – We will not be sending home another sheet with suggestions of learning that can take place over the Easter Break but just a list of suggested 'Easter holiday activities' that you might like to do as a family. This would normally be a two week holiday for children/school, so we are pretty much sticking with that; however, if you do feel that you need support and guidance, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. During the Easter Break, we will then be working on designing our next home learning offer, which you should have sent to you by the end of the Easter break. We will aim to provide this type of support on a two weekly rotational basis. Again, our approach being ...it's there if you want them to do it, not do not feel any pressure to replicate school at home.
3. Twitter/Emails – It would be great to see both of these carry on during the Easter Break. Teachers will still be monitoring Twitter/Emails, but maybe not as frequently as we have been doing over the last few weeks.
4. Contact Calls – for identified children this will still carry on, so please do not be worried if your child does not have a call over the Easter Break; this will start up again once the holiday is over. As a school, we have agreed that some teachers may still choose to carry on with these calls. However, we have agreed that if a teacher is speaking to one sibling in the house then they will inform the teacher of the other siblings, who will also do likewise.
5. Resource packs – We fully understand that it can take a lot to resource this approach to home learning. We are currently creating packs that can be delivered to homes; we are aiming for these packs to all be delivered by Good Friday. These packs will include resources like pens/pencils/paper/rubber/sharpener/glue stick etc. In the first instance these packs are aimed at supporting the learning of children who are identified as 'Pupil Premium'. However, we do understand that the resourcing of home learning can be expensive for all children. Taking this into account, if you feel you need a resource pack, please feel free to contact school and we will see how we can support, (although I am afraid that these resource packs will not be able to include printers and printer inks!).
6. Access to Technology Devices/Internet – As with the above point, we fully acknowledge that quite a lot of the suggested home learning relies on access to technology. This is the case both for learning suggested by school or anything else that is being offered by multiple companies/celebrities. Do children have access to a device at home? Do children have access to the Internet? Is there a printer at home? Can parents afford to buy ink? These are all questions that we are trying to get to grips with at the moment. As part of our contact calls, we are trying to ascertain answers to the above questions. We are in the process of trying to address some of these issues, with regards to what the next home learning sheet looks like. Again, if there are any issues, please contact us at school and we will see what we can do to support.
7. Annual Reports – These were due to go out on Friday 3rd April. All teachers had completed these reports the week before we partially closed, ready for me to read each one and then add a comment. I'm afraid that with everything that has gone on, this has dropped down my priority list. However, the aim is that I will read these over the next two weeks and then get them emailed home to each child via Parent Mail. Once we are back in school, we will then ensure that every child gets a proper paper copy of their report.

Some Other Points

1. Free School Meal Vouchers – As a school, we have chosen to go down the voucher route for free school meals. This means that every child who is entitled to a free school meal will receive a voucher that can be used at local supermarkets. If a family has more than one child who is entitled to a free school meal, then each child will receive a voucher. In the first instance, when we purchase the vouchers we have selected Tesco as our chosen supermarket. However, moving forward, it may be the case that we can offer a more bespoke service whereby you can choose the supermarket from a list that is provided. We are aiming to get the voucher system sorted out as soon as possible and are aiming to personally deliver the vouchers the week beginning Monday 6th April. Please bear with us as we were only contacted on Wednesday 1st April in terms of setting up our account! At this point of time, we have submitted the order and are just waiting for the vouchers to be sent to us.



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2. Returning to School – Understandably, parents do keep bringing this up with us but I will be honest, we are as much in the dark as to what is happening as you are. I can guarantee you that as soon as we know, we will update parents.

Phew, I think that's as much as I have to update you with at the moment. I hope that this all makes sense! Simply put, if you need anything – work or someone to talk to – we're here to offer you our support. We're all in this together and we just want to help wherever we can.

Thank you again for your continued support and understanding

N. Rice

Mr Rice
