



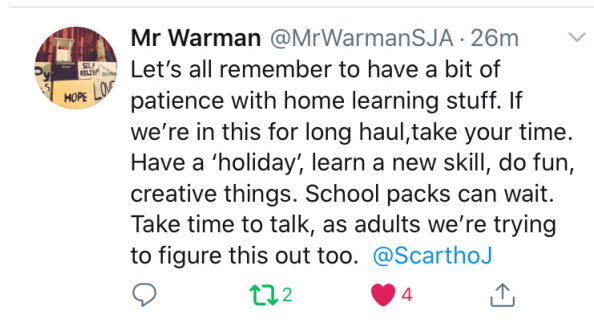
## Home Learning

24 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to my 7<sup>th</sup> letter...apologies for you not getting a letter yesterday, but I thought you needed a break from me! First of all, can I thank all parents for their consideration in terms of sending children into school. We'd anticipated 60 (ish) children and we've only had 13 at a maximum. We're happy to be open for those frontline keyworkers who need schools and to do our bit in these difficult times. I think the message over the weekend has become far clearer...if you don't need to be in school/work, then stay at home. Due to the numbers in school, we can now operate a shift rota of staff. This means that there are less adults in school, which makes self-distancing easier, and enables us to look after their health and wellbeing.

The main message in this letter is to talk to you about home learning. I think Mr Warman's Tweet sums it up well:



As well as this, I've been talking to my sister-in-law who has been 'home schooling' my two nieces. Mr Warman's Tweet and my phone conversation with my sister-in-law enabled me to think this all through and have some reflections.

First all, let's make sure that we call it 'home learning' and not 'home schooling'. There's no way that any of us can replicate school at home – whether we are teachers or not. Just remember that your child would not be getting 1:1 in school all the way through the school day. With this in mind, children don't have to be 'learning' every minute of the day. As a suggested daily timetable, this is what we are doing in school:

- 8.55 – Register – yes, you could do this as well at home
- 9.00 – Joe Wicks PE – Body Coach on Youtube – great daily exercise – adults and children alike
- 9.30 – Maths – TT Rockstars/Numbots (when you can get on them due to the demand!) or other maths learning
- 10.30 – Break
- 11.00 – Reading based activity – this can be simple as just 15 to 20 minutes each day
- 12.00 – Lunch – can they help make it?
- 1.00 – Outside for daily mile walk
- 1.30 – Practical/Creative Activities
- 2.30 – Choosing time
- 3.30 – Home

Just remember, the above timetable is with a maximum of 13 children and 5 adults in school. As parents and carers home learning, you do not have to copy this! We are fully aware that there are lots of parents that have to work at home at the same time.

### What role do parents/carers play?

First all, can I just say that just because we are sharing learning with you, you do not have to do any of it. If you choose to have quality time at home with your family during this stressful and worrying time then that's great! You may choose to do your own activities at home and dip/choose not to do any that we share with you. At this period in time, home is so important



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Principal Neville Rice

to all the children. Lots of children will be worried, concerned, upset and disappointed to name but a few emotions. As well as this, the children might start to realise that they may not be coming back to finish the year that they are in or see their teacher, who they have possibly developed a good relationship with. The most important thing you can do is to be there for them, support them and offer the love that they need. This is what will help them through this period of time, not any learning we are sharing with you. Being an emotional stable person is the most important thing at the moment and this is where parents can really support their child. If you are having issues with any emotions, please do contact us as we have a wide range of resources that could help.

### However, what learning is being shared with us/created?

If you don't already know, we are not actually fully closed, but have a skeleton staff in on rota to support those children of keyworkers. The first thing we developed was a whole school overview support sheet, which went out last Friday. If you have not received this then please contact your child's class teacher; their details are later on in this letter. This sheet on it's own has more than enough work for your child to work on. Staff who are self-isolating, social distancing or working on rota are currently creating banks of learning for you. Each week, we will slowly drip feed you different sites (I know these are high in demand so slow!), suggested activities and mini projects that you could undertake...if you want to! I know this work is going on as I'm being constantly being sent emails/WhatsApp message sharing, suggesting and organising learning. Please remember, this is the first week of many to possibly come...we need to take it slowly and step-by-step!

### Who do I contact or share work with?

If it is a question about your child's learning or sharing learning, then please email your child's class teacher. If you have any queries about logon/password issues please contact Mrs Jennings...please remember she can't send these over an email so she might redirect you to school to phone school. In terms of phoning school, please bare with us as we've kept our staff to an absolute bare minimum...you'll either most probably get myself or Miss Fawn. Please be aware that we are not at the phone between 1.00 to 1.30, as we are undertaking the daily mile walk. There also might be other times where we are involved in other issues. If all else fails, or you are unsure, email myself and I'll try and reply as soon as possible. It's been great to see what everyone is doing on Twitter as well...please keep this up! As a guarantee, we'll all check in with our emails at least once a day. I can't guarantee what time this will be, as it will differ from one person to another due to their personal and work circumstances.

### What is the whole school's approach?

At the moment, this does seem a bit scattergun as we get to grips with home learning. I do apologise as there will definitely be miscommunications, changes and different messages on the same issue from different people. As I have said, we are learning at the same time you are. However, can I just say I'm amazed at what is going on from both a school's and a home's point! We are currently developing and discussing where we are saving all these resources so that you can easily access them as time goes on. We are going to keep parents updated with a weekly newsletter. As well as this, we will be consulting parents on resources they might need at home to support learning (pens, pencils, sharpeners etc.) as you might be running out!

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Principal Neville Rice

## Are there any simple structures you can suggest?

- How about taking the register in the morning and afternoon? Could this be taken in another language?
- Have you designed a timetable for the week? For each day? Children love knowing what is going to happen! Can you get the children involved or doing this themselves? Remember, it's absolutely fine to timetable their own free time, a film etc!
- We tend to keep the mornings for reading/writing/maths tasks and the afternoon for more practical learning. However, it's entirely up to you!
- Have you thought about a reward system? One family have developed this around having a snack price list and rewards are earned through the day to earn 'money' to pay for the snacks. This does not just have to be rewards linked to learning – these could be related to chores.
- If you've more than one child, could you have an end of week time reward get together.
- Finally, the weekend is just that, the weekend. Time to chill!

Whilst I have gone into our approach to home learning in detail, can I just reinforce one or two things:

- You're not there to be a teacher substitute – you're their parent in a difficult period of time!
- It's up to you if you want to do any home learning
- You don't need to stick to our programmes or suggestions
- You don't need to start at 9.00 – if you and the children are having a well-deserved lie-in then so be it...just enjoy it!
- You don't need to be doing something every minute of the day
- If you've any questions, or are unsure, you know where we are!

Let me just remind you what Mr Warman Tweeted:



Mr Warman @MrWarmanSJA · 26m

Let's all remember to have a bit of patience with home learning stuff. If we're in this for long haul, take your time. Have a 'holiday', learn a new skill, do fun, creative things. School packs can wait. Take time to talk, as adults we're trying to figure this out too. @ScarthoJ



Thank you again for your continued support and understanding. I hope this letter has helped and eased a few growing concerns that I was picking up on.

Kind regards

N. Rice

Mr Rice