

11/04/2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Firstly a reminder that the school site is closed to everyone over the full period of the lockdown.** We request that everyone please stay away from the school site. This is a Ministry of Education decision and includes parents, staff, children and community. Even if I need to get onto the site for a security or safety reason, I need to obtain Ministry of Education permission.

### **Distance Learning Programme**

On Wednesday 15th April, we begin term 2. This will be unlike any school term we have experienced. I would like to thank our amazing teachers for the work they have put in, to produce a flexible and realistic programme for your child. This distance learning will run until we are back to school.

This programme is not a full day slog for you or your child! We want to maintain basic skills and knowledge, ensure your child is getting some differentiated learning through Mathletics and Reading Eggs and give opportunities for new learning and application of skills in art, writing and inquiry. We wanted to use learning tools that the children already know, which takes some of the stress away, as they should be able to work on many tasks with just a watchful eye on them. At the beginning of each week we are in lockdown, your child's teacher will provide a grid of learning activities. These are aimed to give you some choices and options for each of the key areas of reading, mathematics and writing, as well as some other activities. Some are online, while others will be offline activities. If you have any questions about the assigned tasks please contact your child's teacher.

Your child's teacher is available between 9am-3pm to answer email questions, respond to a piece of learning with feedback, on writing for example, and also to clarify any issues. However, they are dealing with the whole class, as well as many being parents themselves and having to support their own children's learning. They will get back to you, but it may not always be instant. They will send an email/message/video etc to start each day. This will have any extra tasks, maybe a bit of news from the teacher's own world or even a joke or two!

There will also be an opportunity for a weekly Google Meet/ Zoom conference chat for your child with their teacher. The opportunity for these will start from the week beginning Monday 20th April. This is optional and is an opportunity for your child to ask questions about learning and importantly, to stay connected. Your child will be able to sign up for a slot for this catch up, via a Google Doc. Times and days will be decided by the individual teacher. They will send more information and the sign up doc to your child. For privacy reasons these live sessions will **not** be recorded by the teacher and we also ask that students/families do **not** record live sessions. We also request that parents are not involved in these sessions, once the children are set up, as we want to continue to reinforce self-management and learning responsibility for our students.

Routine is important in these times, but with some flexibility. Don't battle and create additional stress at home. If something is causing too much stress, stop the task and do something different! Even if that is lego building/ playing with the pet or an alternative task.

**As a guide only**, this is what I am doing at home (far from perfect, but may help with an idea or two). Timings are loose and if something is not working or our internet fails (occurring a lot with my rural broadband) then we can try something else...or not!

## Suggested Possible Daily Routine

9.30am	Message from class teacher to start the day
9.45 - 10.15am	First learning task (Reading/Maths)
10.15 - 10.45am	Fruit break- as a family! Means me being there and away from my desk too!
10.45 - 11.15am	Second learning task (Maths/Reading)
11.15 - 11.45am	Fitness and Break! For us this will be kicking a ball around, shooting hoops, or an online workout, like the Joe Wicks sessions from YouTube.
11.45 - 12.15pm	Writing task
12.15 - 1pm	Lunch-Again together as a family, might include some TV, a short walk etc
1 - 2pm	Other tasks-art/ creative/ inquiry
2pm	Finish - Home Learning Closed - Down Time

There will also be the new Educational TV channels to watch at specific times for your children as well as the opportunity to explore other amazing resources to engage and stimulate the children, such as the National Geographic NZ site. I hope you find the resources and the work that has been selected useful. Spending time creatively as a family, whether it is cooking, baking, creating art or building something together is hugely educational and we would encourage these things as well.

The most important thing during these challenging times is to stay safe and well as a family. I will be in regular contact over the period of the lockdown, to both the children and the parents, keeping everyone updated.

Kia Kaha.

Stephen Grady

Principal

Greenhithe School