



The Priory School

Weekly Briefings

Friday 24th April 2020

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Dear Parents / Carers,

I've just come off the Help Desk after spending some time preparing for the Learners of the Week LIVE later today. Wow - it is so encouraging to see all the messages and children's work on there. Well done everyone!

We really do appreciate the effort that everyone is making and I want to reassure you if your child has been finding the work hard or has difficulty focusing at home. You are by no means alone and while it is wonderful if your child is managing to do all the work we set, it is not compulsory.

Many young children are still learning how to be independent and a play centred approach is to be encouraged. Please do not feel anxious or guilty - your child will be learning so much about themselves and what they are capable of by playing. We will help them all catch up when they get back to school.



Frequently Asked Questions about 'School @ Home'

How much school work is recommended?

This will vary depending on the child, their age and their ability. As a minimum, It would be enormously helpful if you could keep the following 3 things ticking over every day:

1. Listen to stories and **read, read, read**
2. Complete at least **question 1 of the Maths No Problem daily workbook**. Question 1 indicates success of the core objective. If this is too hard, then choose an area of Maths from the new @OakAcademy resource (it's OK if you choose a lower year group so your child can do it on their own).
3. Write down and **spell a couple of tricky words** or new words. This will be hard for reluctant writers, but just writing a couple of words everyday will help their fine motor muscle memory. Many children seem happier to write with a whiteboard and pen or chalk on a wall rather than a pencil on paper and that's OK!

How can my child get teacher feedback?

We recognise that getting recognition from the class teacher for a job well done, will encourage further effort. However, as well as preparing work for 'school @ home', teachers are also supervising children in school, so they are not always free to respond.

At the moment there are 2 ways to share your work / ask questions to the teacher.

1. Email the **helpdesk@prioryceprimary.co.uk**. Mr Swain will respond or forward your email to the teacher. There's been 500 emails to the helpdesk so far! We are reviewing how we can make this work even better.
1. Older pupils can contact their teacher and upload work directly on **Google Classroom** and we want to encourage them to do that more and more now.



What about the Statutory Assessments?

As you are aware, these have all been cancelled and there are no plans for future testing (in say September) at this stage. We are awaiting guidance on what happens next.

Class 1 Phonics Screening

We purchased a workbook to help children prepare for their phonics test and it has finally arrived. We don't want to encourage a social gathering, but we want Class 1 to have their books to help them get ready for Class 2. **A free Class 1 Phonics workbook will be available for collection Monday and Tuesday morning from the reception foyer.** You can simply collect and go.

Class 2 KS1 SATs

Looking at the calendar, these would have started today. These have always been quite controversial tests, as the children are so young, so I am pleased they are not happening.

Class 4 Multiplication Check

I think this would have been a useful assessment - so Class 4 keep testing yourself on Times Tables Rockstars!

Class 6 KS2 SATs (& future CAT testing for secondary transition)

Many children in Class 6 have been working so hard to prepare for secondary school that they would have enjoyed the challenge of SATs week. We will send you some tests (and the answers) during the actual week in May, if we aren't open, so you can have a taste of the real thing and see how you would have done. The good news is that you don't need to tell anyone your score - unless you got them all right!

I would encourage Class 6 to try to get into a routine with their home learning. The school will still be asked our view of your end of primary school attainment by your new secondary school and it is likely you will still sit some sort of assessment in Maths and English (called CAT tests) this summer term. Everyone recognises how important it is that you feel settled when starting your new school in September.

My child just doesn't seem interested in learning at all—help!?

You are not alone and children will have good days and bad days. It is particularly hard to be sitting at a table inside when the weather is so gorgeous at the moment. We are also aware that not everybody has access to online resources—especially if you are also working from home.

As I've said, the work our teachers set is not compulsory - it follows a similar track to the work the children would have been doing in our school. However a list of flexible tasks that cover different areas of the curriculum allows children to choose the tasks that interest them, and the ones you feel they can manage. It's why the new <https://www.thenational.academy/> resource and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> are such useful sites to explore.

Can we have online lessons by the teachers please e.g. using zoom?

Online lessons are not desirable for primary children as the teacher-pupil interaction is not easily replicated. There are significant safeguarding implications and many children will be disadvantaged because they do not have access to the technology.

There is more I could add, but suffice to say it is not something we will be doing. However, we are exploring ways that we could use pre-recorded 'tutorial' videos in the future. As I've mentioned before our teachers are working hard preparing lessons, responding to pupils online, supervising children of key workers and ensuring all children are safe and well at home.



Wise Words from the Director of Education, Winchester Diocese

“Learning at home, with the support of family members will never replicate the social, emotional, spiritual and physical aspects of a school day. Equally, the opportunities for deep learning and experiences of a different kind with family members cannot be replicated by schools. So let’s affirm parents and carers, encouraging them to engage with their children on a whole host of levels that perhaps they didn’t do previously, or did for limited times.

A shared bike ride may not have been a family experience for some previously – but now is a time that this can be maximised, with long term benefits. Teaching one’s child to paint a wall, plant seeds, change a tyre on a bike, cook and bake, read a book together are all valuable and valid learning experiences that we can promote and endorse.”

Free School Meal Provision

Our system continues to improve and many families have chosen the 5 day food hamper option.

If you think you are eligible please apply online at <https://www.christchurch.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx>

Covid 19 Helpline

BCP Council have organised a helpline if you are struggling during this pandemic. If you are 'shielding' or self-isolating and you need a volunteer to help get food or other essential household items, simply call **0300 123052**.

Christchurch Food Bank Message

We received this message from Tracy at Christchurch Foodbank.



“Please let all your families know we are here to help. They can continue to use their yellow voucher (there is no date restriction) and have more if necessary. Simply contact us **christchurchfoodbank@gmail.com** OR **07587371088** to send us a message and we will arrange for a food delivery or for them to collect.

All our parcels have fresh potatoes, veg, fruit, bread and milk as well as tinned and packet Produce. If you need a voucher—simply contact the school also.

Prayer of St Benedict

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mr Ruffle