



THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

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HOME LEARNING DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE FOR COVID-19

Dear Parents

We very much appreciate that this period of enforced school closure will be a very difficult time for parents, juggling home learning and the responsibilities of work and potentially caring for other relatives.

We have tried to make home learning as straightforward as possible in order to support parents. Parents should encourage children to engage in the suggested activities for as long as possible during the school day. All children should be engaged in some form of home learning for at least three hours of the day; this should also include physical activity inside and outside such as cosmic yoga, going for a cycle ride or playing football in the garden. Older children, Year Four – Year Six, should be aiming to study for at least four hours of the day with breaks in between, again including some form of physical activity.

All year groups have a Home Learning Plan that will be sent home via paper and email. This contains **FOUR** activities that should be completed every day; these will be the staples for the reinforcement of basic skills.

Alongside this, all children should have at least one period of independent reading during the day – this is dependent on the age and stage of your child: five – ten minutes of sharing a book for nursery and reception age children up to thirty – forty minutes of independent daily reading for children in Year Six. We will be sending home a few reading books and library books with each child – as many as the stock of books in school will allow. Please supplement this with books that you have at home and books from the local library. If you consider swapping books with other families, please ensure that they have been sanitised and then ‘quarantined’ – the virus can live on hard surfaces for up to 72 hours. Remember, it is good practise for children to reread books.

We would like to remind parents that the maths calculation policies for each year group are available on the school website. Click on to the ‘Our Classes’ page and find the relevant year group tab. ‘Maths at Home’ videos are also available on the London Grid for Learning. Click on the ‘For Parents’ page on the school website and find the Home Learning tab. These resources will support the teaching and learning of mathematics during this period of school closure.

There are also a mixture of other activities on the Home Learning Plan that children can select from. Choose one or two every day – these can be turned into longer projects if the children are particularly inspired or interested in following certain topics further.

We have included websites that will be useful for parents during this time. Alongside the websites that your class teacher has recommended, you may wish to use:

LGfL

London Grid for Learning is opening up its curriculum resources so that they are accessible for parents. Some resources will require your child to log in using their LGfL username and password – e.g. username: smith2.318 password: table19. There are some excellent resources on this site. <https://homelearning.lgfl.net>

TWINKL

Twinkl has offered free access to resources for parents for the period of national school closures. There will be many useful resources on this website. www.twinkl.co.uk/offer Enter the code: **UKTWINKLHELPS**

PHONICS HERO

<https://www.phonicshero.com/>

LITERACY SHED

<https://www.literacyshed.com/home.html>



AUDIOBOOKS

<https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/>

STORYLINE ONLINE

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

HOUR OF CODE

<https://hourofcode.com/uk/learn>

SCRATCH

<https://scratch.mit.edu/>

NAT GEO 4 KIDS

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

BRAINPOP

<https://www.brainpop.com/>

SWITCHAROO ZOO

<https://www.switchzoo.com/>

GONOODLE

<https://www.gonoodle.com/>

To accompany the Home Learning Plan for Year One to Year Six, we are resending both the Pathway to Spelling and the maths KIRFs. Children can spend some time revisiting these key words and number facts.

Parents can of course supplement the suggested activities with wider learning experiences such as cooking and baking, art activities, educational television, discussing the news, visiting a place of interest, completing a puzzle or playing a board game. The BBC announced yesterday that educational programmes will be available online and on BBC IPlayer for families to access.

We would like all children to complete a 'scrapbook' detailing the coverage of home learning for this period. This can be in the exercise book your child brings home or a notebook or other book of your child's choice.

The prepared Home Learning Plans have enough activities to last into the Easter break. As it is looking like schools will be closed for longer than this period, staff will prepare further learning plans and activities that will then be emailed to parents.

A key component of successful learning is to remember that 'what you put in you also get out'. Encourage your child to drink lots of water throughout the day, to eat a selection of fruits and vegetables as snacks, to get plenty of sleep and to take regular exercise. All of these elements will support your child with successful learning during the period that they are not at school.

We ask that parents check in regularly with school emails and watch for further updates. We will keep parents informed as to any changes or developments.

Should you have any difficulties during this time, please contact the school email address info@russell.richmond.sch.uk as this address will be checked daily and emails forwarded to relevant class teachers or to me.

We wish you the best of luck – and please remember we are still here to help throughout this terrible time. Please ask for advice and support if you need it.

Yours sincerely



Samantha Leir
Headteacher