

Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of the first week of this first week of unprecedented change, I wanted to thank all of you, our amazing parents and families. I know that for us all, life for the moment has changed and I wanted to thank you for the wonderful support you are providing for your children through this challenging time. All of the Staff at Stamshaw Infant School are missing you and thinking of our wonderful families as they start a new adventure of home educating children. Here in the school, staff are continuing to provide emergency care for all key workers in order that lives can be saved and we are grateful to all who are involved in this fight against Covid-19.

This week, many of you will have started to educate your children at home by following the useful guidance on the website and working through packs sent home last Friday. On Monday 30th March, the teachers will upload another week of suggested activities and resources that may help you. This will be refreshed weekly as we move further along our journey.

During the Easter holiday, provision for key workers will continue in order for front line staff to be able to continue their valuable work. **We do continue to ask that wherever possible children should remain in the family home and follow the Government guidance regarding self-isolation rules.** Teachers will not be setting work during the Easter holiday but you are welcome to continue with the support provided if it allows a little consistency.

I will write to you again after Easter to outline our provision for continued home education and the support that we are able to offer. Class teachers will also be contacting all families in the next week to check on your welfare and to support where at all possible.

Meanwhile, here are a few tips for you all as we begin this new challenge:

✓ **Take it easy on yourselves**

We are all working this out and it is a strange situation for everyone! Don't expect to have a system that works for you and your family straight away.

✓ **Too much technology!**

Although technology plays an important role in education, activities do not always have to be on a screen to keep the children engaged. Don't forget that this is also an important time for your child to learn new skills that they wouldn't necessarily learn at school such as cleaning, helping with pet care, cooking, gardening etc.

✓ **You don't need to know all the answers straight away.**

If it's maths or literacy, phonics or science that worries you - do not stress! There are plenty of websites to help parents understand how to teach certain concepts to children. These include bbc bite size, Youtube etc. Teachers will add links to the suggested activities and you may find these useful too.

✓ **Children sometimes work best when they have choices.**

We have published a suggested timetable and perhaps you could sit with your child each day and discuss the activities so that they feel part of the planning. Many children

feel best when they understand what is coming next. Be sure to build in plenty of breaks throughout the day.

✓ **Talking is key!**

Social emotional skills are at the core of all meaningful learning and are vital to our overall well-being. This change gives parents and carers the chance to connect and discuss feelings. Children may have lots of questions relating to our crisis and display different emotions if these worries build up. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> is a great tool to help explain issues to children in a child friendly way.

Lastly, please do not feel you are on your own! Over the coming weeks we will continue to upload support onto our school website and teachers will be getting in touch with you all to offer support needed during school hours.

Sending my very warmest wishes to you and your families.

Mrs J Cooper
Headteacher