



Jessop Stockwell Federation

Lead Headteacher: Ms A.Parker

Monday 27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy Monday!

As we enter week 6 of lockdown, and 3 weeks of no school, certainly by now, it would not be unusual to be feeling the strain and stress of juggling home schooling, remote working, being a parent and coping with all things (including the news) COVID-19. The luxury I have of communicating with so many different people is being able to tell you that everyone is having the same feelings, from the moral dilemma of working remotely, against teaching the child/ren to the children arguing and distracting each other whilst waiting for their turn on the laptop.

We all just want to know when this will be over so we can resume what we know as normal life.

From us, hang in there. We are all doing a phenomenal job keeping it together, responding to circumstances we could have never envisaged.

This morning, I met with the Parent Teacher Association representatives from each of our Partnership Schools Matt, Laura and Carol. Thank you for enabling a collaborative approach to us working together to get this as right as we possibly can for our children. The very thing that we celebrate as part of our uniqueness, the many factors that make us and our households all so different, are our current challenge. However, I am confident that an unstructured, supplementary approach, can give us all what we need to feel like it is all more achievable.

Book Club

This week we are trialing a virtual book club with a group of year 5 children across our Partner schools. Once we are confident with the model for this, and that we have the right infrastructure to make it happen, we will be rolling it out more broadly across the schools.

Daily Story Time

From Wednesday, every day we will be hosting story time on Virtual School. This will be a mixture of pre-recorded and live sessions. Key Stage 1 Story Time will begin at 2pm whilst Key Stage 2 will be at 2.30pm. A wide variety of staff are invited to share a story. Encourage the children to look out for who it will be.

Competition Time

This week, we are launching our first weekly Bonneville, Jessop, Stockwell Partnership competition. Every Monday we will be announcing the winners and setting the next challenge. All competitions will close at 12pm each and every Friday. We will be choosing an Early Years, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and a BJS Partnership overall winner.

Encourage your child/ren to get involved and upload their entries to our competition email address bjspartnershipcompetition@gmail.com by Friday 12pm.

This week's competition is 'The view from here.' We would like children to create a picture of their view of choice. Their artwork will be judged on the following:

- a) Imagination
- b) How clear it is
- c) How it makes the audience feel

Commonly asked questions

Will the Year 6 tests still go ahead?

No. The government have announced that there will be no Key Stage 1 or 2 tests this year. The Year 4 timetables tests and Year 1 Phonics tests are also not going ahead. We have been informed that there will be no league tables and external bodies (Ofsted) will not be holding schools accountable against 2020 data results. Schools will be expected to provide teacher assessments.

Why are the virtual school resources staggered daily?

We want, as best we can, to support you in the management of appropriate screen time for children. We are aware that families will have other activities that they will want to allow their children to engage with. As it is strictly not our desire for children to sit on laptops and tablets for extended lengths of time, thus steaming through all the resources at once, you do not need advance access to them.

What if I do not know the answers?

Please do not be nervous about this. Not only have we provided the answers but also the slides are to be used as a teaching tool. If you work through the materials before attempting the activities, they will provide you with the answers and explanations.

How much is enough?

The work uploaded on Virtual school is the amount we want the children to achieve. If you are able to get your child/ren in the daily engagement of 20 minutes of Reading, 20 minutes of Writing and 20 minutes of Maths, in some capacity, then you have nailed it.

If you are using other resources to do this, then that is fine too.

We are aware that some families want their children to do more, we will upload what we deem as appropriate and invite you to use some of the other resources available to you like BBC Bitesize and www.thenational.academy/online-classroom. We will continue to earmark a variety of resources.

Do the slideshows need to be in colour? We print it in our house and that is quite costly.

We use colour on our PowerPoints to support pupil engagement and make them easier to follow. As not everyone prints the slides, we suggest you change your printer setting to greyscale or black and white before printing.

Our children are missing their teachers and their friends. Can we have virtual teaching lessons?

We miss the children too and have really considered this. Virtual lessons would mean timetabling the day. Your day! We know the flexibility to do maths at a time of your choosing is what, for many of you, makes it possible. However, the means to support children's independence (not needing you) to get it done will also support in making it possible. From next week, teachers will be asked to upload a video explaining the learning of the week every Monday. It will cover Maths, English, Science and the foundation topics. If there are any tricky concepts, they will model those too. This way, you can access the video at a time of your choosing, the children get to see their teacher and we do not create an unmanageable workload for everyone.

I am a Key Worker and my child is on site, should I be doing Virtual School at home too?

No. Every morning, as part of our daily timetable along with all the activities, children do the virtual school materials aligned with the expectations we have for everyone.

Can you recommend a timetable?

Make use of the morning as much as possible. Children are more focussed in the morning.

In households where there are siblings and one computer, get them doing different things at the same time and break up the activities. For example, whilst Child A is doing maths on the laptop, Child B could be reading. Try not to make them feel like they are waiting for the computer, more that they are at a different point in their timetable, then you can swap between subjects.

Children do not have to be sat doing maths for an hour. They simply need to engage with maths and complete the tasks set.

During an ordinary day at school, 20 minutes of an hour-long lesson is the independent task. A child working independently on a task for 20 minutes, that has enough challenge, is sufficient. This does not include the time it takes to go through the slides and answer questions.

We are working on adding more activities and competitions in order to increase engagement and add more layers to the children's day.

Can we upload the children's work so they can get some feedback from their teacher?

We are currently looking at ways we can make this happen through different platforms. We will keep you posted.

It is true, children act differently at school, however, you educate them every day too. Those organic conversations and life lessons is exactly what our children need right now. When it comes down to it the important question is, are they safe, fed and happy? When all this has settled, we will do everything we can to help our children make sense of this and continue to educate them to where they should be. We just ask that you, at least, keep their brains warm for us!

I appreciate your support, patience and understanding whilst we adapt to functioning in a manner that is new to us all.

Keep inside, keep safe and I will keep in touch.

Regards,



Ms A. Parker
Lead Headteacher



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