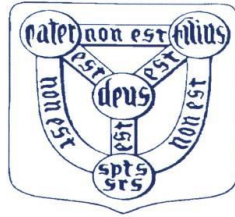


Shellingford CE (A) Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Judith Terrell



"Inspiring hearts and minds"

School Newsletter

Summer Term Five 2020 - Issue 1

24th April 2020

Value for the next two weeks: Endurance

You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.

- A.A Milne

Dear Shellingford School Family,

We trust you are all keeping well in the current circumstances and have managed to enjoy to some extent the Easter holiday - the recent sunny weather has certainly helped to lift our spirits! This Easter has been very different, and we did miss all the usual celebrations and observances at school with you all at the end of last term. The Lenten period of isolation for Jesus lasted for forty days. Our usual activities have been curtailed with the Coronavirus imposing self-isolation and 'distancing' which looks as if it will be lasting much longer than we first anticipated. Our school value of 'Endurance' for the next two weeks seems rather apt currently as we are having to adapt and cope with the situation we are in today.

Our school newsletters will continue to be sent out fortnightly and we are hoping to celebrate with you some of the home learning activities that have been taking place along the way.

The main focus of this newsletter is to reiterate our plans and expectations for learning at home this term:

Home-Learning Plan Summer Term Five

We have carried out much research about the best platforms available for us to use, considered advice from the DfE and education unions, safeguarding agencies, held discussions with other schools, listened to feedback from parents, gained an understanding of technology available at home, thought about training implications, and importantly the well-being of the children, parents and staff.

We are learning together and adapting our strategy as we go to provide the best we can for everyone, and we will continue to refine this as the term progresses.

Structuring the Day

The children will have English and Maths tasks every day and we are aiming to make these activities more interactive for them. They will also have a choice of broader curriculum activities (Science, History, Geography, Music and Art for example). There will be a focus on 'Well-Being' activities which is an important one to look out for and to encourage your child to do. This may be linked to our school Christian value for the week. There will also be some big questions in RE to debate! It is important for daily exercise to continue and PE/fitness challenges will be suggested. We hope everyone will enjoy a reading time at some point in their day – either through their own book, or perhaps listening to David Walliams story time at 11.00am or any of the websites like Oxford Owl.

Here are some websites to support reading:

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>
<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>
<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

It does not matter when the children do their learning or if they are not able to complete all the activities set. Everyone's timetable will be different according to their own circumstances, but please do something. We do expect that children are learning every day. Parents can support as they have time to do but sometimes children can be independent in their learning, especially as they get older.

Home Learning Lessons

Home Learning activities will be sent to parents on a Friday for the following week via Microsoft Teams (for Years 1-6) and Tapestry (for Class 1) as well via the school's Homework email.

Our plan is for teachers to outline the direction of learning and intended outcomes weekly. Brief PowerPoint explanations may also be sent using non-technical language. We will try to keep it simple whilst at the same time giving enough information for children to be learning and not just being kept busy. Teachers may also make short audio and video recordings as they see fit to support and model learning.

We are told that Microsoft Teams is particularly good for interacting with the children. We will be adding 'Posts' which children can respond to, files for children to access and 'Assignments' for children to complete. Work can be submitted, and teachers can give feedback to individuals and / or to the whole class.

Pre-recorded video or audio files explaining and demonstrating work can be uploaded on 'Stream' within Microsoft Teams to support learning. We will not be live conferencing at this stage. When teachers can be back working in school, we may consider this option, but we will not be leading live lessons from teachers' homes. We are told that teacher-child interactions do not translate well to a virtual environment, especially for younger children.

Microsoft Teams gives us an excellent opportunity to teach our older children a skill that will be transferable and useful to them in the future, but it will take time for everyone to get there. Teachers are learning new skills at the same time as parents and children! We know that not everyone in the class has the technology or the skills to be able to access learning this way so we will also be making sure the weekly activities are sent to parents via the Homework email. There will be less learning, but available in different ways, due to the time to prepare, upload and respond to queries / give feedback.

Growth Mindset!

Please encourage your child to do their best. They hear this every day in school. Presentation and care are important as is effort and high-quality work. Lots of work can be self-marked as answers will be available, parents can give feedback or you can take a photo and email it to your child's class teacher via the Homework email, Tapestry or via Microsoft Teams (using the Assignments tab or Private Student Notebook facility which is inside the Class Notebook). Teachers will also give feedback when appropriate.

Extensions and Challenge

Teachers may include extension activities, but if you want to do more, there are a wide range of additional opportunities. The 'Remote Learning' document attached to this newsletter will take you to a host of online resources which cover nearly every subject area. Using time to get quicker at keyboard skills would also be really valuable. Both of these websites are free:

Years 1-4: [BBC Bitesize Dance Mat Typing](#)

Years 5-6 [Typing.com](#)

SEN Pupils

Children who have individual SEN Pupil Profiles will be given additional tasks and signposted to websites for activities to support with specific needs to ensure that their alternative work programmes can keep going remotely. This is really important so that progress does not slow, and confidence is not lost. The SEN Team can be contacted via the School Office email.

Keeping in Touch with the school

Parents can continue to email the School Office with any queries. Staff are continuing to work daily and phone conversations between parents and teachers are possible if necessary.

Please make sure you are in touch with your class teacher once a week, as we will be concerned if we are not receiving regular contact from you.

It is very important that we remain connected – the children need to still feel part of their class to avoid feelings of isolation and loneliness. Teachers will be able to upload photographs, videos and facilitate chat using the web-based platforms we are using to make sure children get to interact with their classmates.

Safeguarding

Please be careful with on-line working. The home learning situation has brought with it some opportunities for exploitation and children need to be supervised. Working in a general area, and not a bedroom, is best so parents can monitor. There is a lot of e-safety advice around and key websites which have already been shared with you in the Home Learning email sent to all parents on the 2nd April. Any messaging needs to follow our ICT Acceptable User Agreements which all parents have signed. Please remind your child that messages/chat should be courteous and respectful.

Please do not let children spend too long using the screen. Some of the activities set are more physical and creative to break up the day so that their screen and sitting time is reduced.

We do very much acknowledge that family life at home may currently be under more pressure. If you need support, please do not be afraid to ask. I am always available to help and Mrs Ashdown can also provide advice to children and parents. Just email the School Office and we will set up the best way to communicate and help you.

Equally, be aware that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried about a child or family, it is your duty to talk to someone and get help. You can send an email to the School Office for the attention of myself, as Headteacher and as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Mr Drew (Deputy DSL) and Miss Long are also DSL trained, and they will follow the right channels to provide support. If you prefer to discuss concerns with someone external, you can contact the South Team Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS) in Abingdon on 0345 2412608 LCSS.South@oxfordshire.gov.uk or for an immediate concern about harm to a child contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 050 7666.

Lastly, I have also attached some advice to help parents during coronavirus should your child become unwell.

With very best wishes to you all,
Judith R Terrell and Staff

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