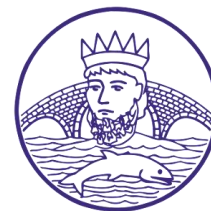


King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update 24th March 2020

Thank you for all your support and kind messages/emails/letters over the past few days. This has been much appreciated by us all. We are in a really unusual time and planning day by day with a rapidly depleting staff team.

We hope you are all safe and well at home. Please do respect the Government's very clear instruction now to stay at home in isolation apart from the very few exceptions that have been described. This is important in preventing the virus continuing to spread, to protect our families and communities and most importantly to ensure that front line health workers can manage the numbers severely affected. We all need to play our part in this.

Here are some key updates:

Learning Packs - Staff delivered learning packs that were still at school yesterday to as many families as possible. They visited your home addresses and gave them directly to you or posted them through the door where possible. If you were not at home, we may not have been able to get them to you and we are now unable to do this due to the increased restrictions. All the information you need is on our website, including all the letters with home learning that have been sent. These can be found here: <http://www.kingathelstan.kingston.sch.uk/covid-19-home-learning/>

Vouchers in lieu of Free School Meals (not Universal Free School Meals) - Staff delivered these directly to homes yesterday with a letter. We have a small number that we were not able to deliver as no one was home or we were not able to gain access to a block of flats, and will send these by post in the next day or so.

How to manage your home learning - We continue to add information and ideas to our website that we hope you will find useful. We have already sent suggested things to do in the morning and afternoon. Some people may find a timetable helpful. Here is a blank one you can use (copy can be download from the school website):

Mon			Break		Lunch		
Tue							
We							
Thu							
Fri							

You will know that children respond well to structure and routine so it important to try to recreate this at home. Why not spend some time designing your timetable together? The most important thing is that you **do not** try to recreate the whole school day. Think about a variety of activities including physical and creative things. A couple of hours a day is fine. Children and families need time out, particularly at the moment, to do other things that will support their wellbeing: play board games, do some exercise etc. An example of a timetable could be:

Mon	Physical activity	Phonics/ handwriting/ Reading activities	Break	Maths - practise KIRFs/J2e	Lunch	Family time or Lego challenge	Story
Tue	Writing activity	Maths - practise KIRFs/TT Rockstars	Break	Family time Board game	Lunch	Thinker's Project/creative activity	Reading

Please note we are not able to send additional work at the request of individuals. We simply do not have the capacity to do this. If you look on the school website, you will find all the curriculum overviews for every term and all the maths KIRFs and calculation policy. We recognise that many parents/carers will be working from home alongside supporting their child's learning and that this may mean that you need to take a more flexible approach. There are no set days or times to complete activities to enable you to do what is best for your family.

As time moves on, we will send out updates for each year group, providing our staff team are well enough to do this. Like you, they are managing their own wellbeing and that of their families at the same time as supporting the school in continuing to deliver some learning opportunities both on site and at home. Updates may be whole school updates or per year and are likely to be weekly at most.

We have added an extensive list of online resources to the website under the COVID-19 home learning section of the website. Key important ones are: Joe Wicks, The Body Coach, doing children's fitness sessions every morning at 9am on his YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=PE+with+Joe) and Audible offering free children's audiobooks (<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>). We have also added pen licence support for handwriting (bronze, silver, gold and pen licence criteria).

I promised the children that we would also send out fun things to do to pass the time when they are at home. Here's the first one that is great for the whole family. If you have good, easy to manage game ideas like this then do send them to the admin email address so we can share them:

The Sock Game

Each person playing gets a sock (any sock - but the thicker the better if you want to challenge people!). Each player finds 6 small things around the home to put inside the sock. It is important that they are not sharp so that people don't hurt themselves.

Tie the sock at the top (you can use a hairband or bit of string) and give it a label - e.g. "Sock 1, 2, 3 etc" or potty/blue/dinosaur sock." Here's an example using things from school:



Everyone puts their sock in the middle and each person tries (either on their own or in a team), to guess what is in each sock by feeling only. Obviously, you don't do your own sock!

When everyone has recorded all their answers, you can undo the socks and see how many you have got right! The winner is the person with the most correct guesses. The trick is to find the most unusual items.

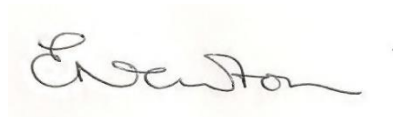
Variations - one person makes all the socks, or make it harder by putting 8 things inside it etc

Have fun!

Please expect to receive email and website updates from us. Please try not to ring the school unless it is absolutely urgent and your child is attending school, as we have a greatly reduced staff team here. If you want to contact us, please email the admin email address:

admin@kingathelstan.rbksch.org and someone will respond to your query.

Take care of yourselves and we will be in touch again soon.



Emily Newton

Headteacher

