

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

KEEPING IN TOUCH #1



27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Friends

It feels much longer than a week since we last saw you and your children. I am sure that you have had a week of adjustment for your families – this is a learning curve for us all. Even with tolerance and love in your family, it's likely to get fractious at times. Please remember that we are not asking you to 'home school' your children, but provide support and encouragement in their learning at home. Many of the activities being set by staff could be accessed independently. There are no expected timescales for completion of learning packs – we are just working to ensure that you do not run out of learning activities, whilst routines are established. Some of our teaching staff are looking after their own children as well as working from home and we have put together some tips that we felt might help from their own experiences...

Be realistic about what YOU can do

- You're not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing your children with some structure at home will help them to adapt.
- Take care of your own health and wellbeing. This will be new for your entire household, so give it time to settle. *Mind.org and The Anna Freud Centre websites have some good advice on mental health and wellbeing during this unprecedented time.*

It would really support children if you help them to have a routine in their day

- Create and stick to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time... get dressed to begin the day etc. Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.
- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible, with the help of the one that we have provided on our website. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership. You know your child best and whether it is working **little and often**, or doing more of the academic tasks in the morning rather than later in the day; choose a strategy that works for all of you and be flexible if they want more time because they are enjoying their learning.
- If you have younger children who will also want to get 'involved', you could try www.fiveminutemum.com - 'Five minute fun activities for busy people to do with little ones.'

Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

- Start each morning with some physical activity - at 9am with Joe Wicks? Other routines are available – perhaps you prefer to dance – then try GoNoodle – it's great! Also, for helping to relax, try: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga/videos>
- If you have a garden, use it regularly-it has been really amazing weather this week and it finally feels like Spring!

Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day:

- Give them chores to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home and maybe ask them to help you cook and bake.
- Accept that they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits – *we will soon be sharing an E Safety at home activity with you, so that you can reflect on this together.*

Teachers are closely monitoring progress in online learning such as Reading Plus, Abacus etc and are enjoying receiving photos that you have sent of learning at home. Teachers are setting tasks which are supporting children in working within the expected standard for their age, which are engaging and interesting enough for your child to be challenged. We will continue to make contact with you once a week, so that we can iron out any challenges that might arise.

The final learning pack for the Spring term will be available to collect for your child(ren) from the Lead Lane gate on Monday 30th March from 1.30-2pm for Key Stage 1 and 2-2.30pm for Key Stage 2. Please follow the social distancing guidelines during this time and use this as an opportunity to take some daily exercise through a walk. Your packs include learning tasks and Easter-themed activities to keep you going throughout the 'Easter holidays'.

It is a challenging time for all of us and we need to focus on supporting our children, ensuring that they feel loved, happy and safe. In these unprecedented times, all we can do is our best! Please look after yourselves and be reassured that the staff at Moorside are working hard to support not only your children but our whole school community.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Rowett', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Rowett
Headteacher