



Kidmore End CE Primary School

www.kidmore-end.co.uk/
office@kidmore-end.co.uk
[@kidmoreendsch](https://www.instagram.com/kidmoreendsch)

3rd April 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

For once, I am starting this newsletter with a completely blank page, because nothing I have ever experienced in over 20 years of teaching has prepared me for the past few weeks and the situation we are experiencing not only as a school but as a nation and in fact as a worldwide community.

In times like this, all we can do is return to our core values. This term we have reflected on courage – and there are countless examples of this in everyday life at the moment, not least from the amazing staff working for the NHS who are truly demonstrating what it is to be brave.

However, there is a place for all our values at the moment. Thankfulness that our families can be together, and enjoy safe homes and gardens in this lockdown period. Hope that we will get through this, with a better understanding of the things that really matter in our lives. Truthfulness and responsibility in our dealings with each other, as we navigate through the guidelines and advice with wisdom in the coming weeks.

And finally friendship – which we are all missing so much as school is closed. I know that many children (and parents) are using digital means to stay in touch which is lovely to hear, but I also know it will be a very special day when we are all back together in the playground!

Home Learning

I want first of all to repeat part of my previous message about home learning. You are responding as best you can to an unprecedented health emergency. You will be trying to balance work and your child's learning, and whilst you can certainly have meaningful learning activities built into your child's day, be kind to yourself, and particularly try not to compare yourselves to others on social media! As parents, you always have been your child's primary educator, so please trust your instincts and focus on the things that matter most to you.

For the next two weeks, there will be no new home learning suggestions, as it is the Easter holidays and we want your children as far as possible to take a break. You will receive today another class teacher email, along with a grid of fun activity suggestions for the Easter period – these are simply ideas and can be used or ignored as you see fit. Please note teachers are not expected to check email over the holidays.

After the holidays, assuming school remains closed, we will continue to update class pages and the whole school home learning page on a weekly basis. Each class teacher will provide a suggested timetable which parents can use if they feel their children need further structure or motivation. This has arisen from parent feedback, from those who feel their child would respond well to 'Mrs X expects you to finish this' - this won't work for everyone so again please take or leave as it suits your family.

We are working on a whole-school topic, again to give a little more structure to the Summer Term, which can be picked up at school when we return if needed. Teachers have loved seeing photographs of home learning, and we are saving them all for display in school, as well as working on safe ways to share these through the website or social media.

Those of you who follow the school Twitter feed will note I have been sharing a link a day with a different weekly focus. In case you missed them:

Reading

[Teach your monster to read](#) game
[Oxford Owl](#) (including e-books)
[Literacy Shed Plus](#) comprehension
[Authorfy](#) author videos and masterclasses

Maths

[Karate Cat Maths](#) game
[nrich maths at home](#)
[Emma Parr Maths videos](#)
[White Rose](#) home lessons
[I See Maths](#) home lessons
[Cbeebies Numberblocks](#)

And finally

Above all else, your children's health and wellbeing is our priority. At the top of the Home Learning Page you will see safeguarding information, including links to useful information for supporting your child through this crisis. There are also lots of suggestions for physical activity, along with a letter from Penny at Active Leaders who has been very proactive at supplying great ideas to keep us all moving.

We wish you a happy, healthy Easter and hope every family is able to enjoy some relaxing time together.

Best wishes

Linda Hull, Headteacher