

WILLOW CLASS

Summer term 2020

Dear Parents,

This is a very different 'Welcome to the Summer Term newsletter' to write! I hope you are all well and managed to get out in your gardens or for your daily exercise and enjoyed the lovely sunny weather we had over Easter.

We've had 2 weeks of Home Learning so far and hopefully we've sorted out the teething problems and are now used to how it works. As one of the 'older' members of staff, I've certainly been on a very steep I.T. learning curve! Remember if you have any problems, please contact me via Seesaw or by email Willow@woodborough.wilts.sch.uk

I will continue to send English and Maths tasks daily. It's really important that these are completed as I know where the gaps in coverage of the Year 6 curriculum are and what areas need to be reinforced or covered before transition to Secondary School. Hence the emphasis on Ratio and Proportion before the Easter Holidays! The English tasks might well span a few days as you would expect at Year 6 - to give pupils time to plan, draft, edit and present their finished work. I will also continue to ask them to do a reading task of some sort each day.

In addition to English and Maths, I will also send home other activities covering the other areas of the curriculum. Our topic this term is North America and some of the activities will have this geography focus whilst others will cover music, art, etc. These can be on-going across the week – definitely not completed on the day set, if the weather is sunny!

It is also really important to keep active. We've mentioned the Joe Wicks YouTube daily programs, but if this isn't what your child likes to do then there are plenty of other things – yoga for children also features quite heavily on YouTube.

I understand that motivating children to do work whilst at home is difficult. All the advice I've read is that they respond best to a timetable with the expectation that they are up and dressed at a normal time (different from the weekends) and have clear times that are for school work and also times when they can relax. There is more advice about this on the Education Psychology pages (link below) on the website.

It's a really unsettling time for us all at the moment, particularly given the uncertainty of the situation and the way news headlines are constantly changing. Our children will be feeling this just as much as us adults. Although it's tempting to try not to worry them, they will be aware of what is happening around them and they might not have all the correct facts to understand and process their thoughts and anxieties. In fact, older children might well only have partial information – 'fake news and urban myths' - and be trying to fill in the gaps themselves. There is some great advice on the school website – information books, useful advice from the Educational Psychology (EP) Service and lots more. Follow this link or click on the Covid19 tab and scroll down to the bottom 'Safeguarding and well-being.'
<https://woodboroughschool.org/covid-19/>

Hopefully we'll all be seeing each other soon!

Mrs Ashby