



Monday 27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Term 5 Updates

Well, it is a very different start to a Summer Term. What can I say but ... we miss you all!

Thank you

I would like to thank all our parents, carers and families who are doing a brilliant job of home-schooling in what is a difficult period of time. You have been really positive and upbeat in your comments and communication with school, which has been great to hear. I would also like to take this opportunity to reassure you. The situation we are in is unprecedented. No one has experienced a situation like it before and therefore everyone is trying their best. You are doing amazingly well. Don't compare yourself to others – everyone's situation is different. Don't feel under pressure to 'recreate school' at home. We don't expect it to look the same. No two children will return to school in the same place and with the same experiences during this period. Everyone's learning will look slightly different. We are providing you with resources and suggestions but know that they may not always be possible for you to complete and won't all work all of the time within your family situations. That is fine. All we ask is that you keep your children as safe and happy as you can. The rest will resolve itself and your children will continue to learn and thrive. Keep your children happy, keep them settled and safe and keep them smiling. You are part of our Wraxall family and you are all so special to us.

I would like to also say a big thank you to all our staff members. They have shown determination and a real commitment to their roles and have continued to work throughout the lockdown; planning, responding to emails and a whole host of other tasks alongside home-schooling their own children, attending Flax Bourton to teach, caring for vulnerable family members or self-isolating themselves. Although the children are just beginning their fourth week of school closures, for the teachers it is the sixth week as they were also working both on site and at home during the Easter holidays. School was still open for our vulnerable and children of key workers. Staff continued to plan and prepare for the home learning that is taking place and are also working in the background to continue to prepare for the long term education of your children. I am so proud of their hard work at this time and the response from parents about the comments they are receiving linked to home learning and pastoral care has been hugely positive. Thank you for the compassion that you are demonstrating towards our staff – we really appreciate it. We are all in this together!

Home Learning

As I explained last term, in response to the feedback we received from you, the home learning each week has become more streamlined. As we strive to reduce the pressure facing parents we are constantly reviewing our processes and the resources that we are using and use your feedback to inform this also.

White Rose – This is the scheme of work and planning that we already follow as a school. It is familiar to the children and the video clips are similar to the content that the class teachers themselves would be delivering.



English – The Hamilton Trust will often be used as the English work for the week as it includes the texts for children to work on, without parents having to purchase and buy texts, aiming to make it as inclusive as possible. However, sometimes the teachers may choose to include other English work that is more appropriate for the class to cover instead of the Hamilton work. This will vary week on week. We are looking to add some grammar support links to the website to help parents with some of the technical terms that may be mentioned.

Afternoon Activities –We have tried to make any other activities shared with you as low pressure as possible. By providing you with a selection of 8 activities there is no pressure to do all or any of the activities. They are there as options and ideas but only if they work for you.

Ongoing are Phonics, maths fluency/times tables and reading. It's also good for your child's wellbeing if they have some physical exercise too. Even I am giving the daily Joe Wicks workout a try - five weeks and counting at the moment and my legs are just about recovering!

Home-School Communication

Wraxall is a really close community and its family feel is part of what makes it such a special place to work and be at school. As a result Home-School communication is really important to me. I will continue to produce the weekly newsletter while it is possible to do so. Although there is little news to share I will continue to include relevant links to websites and resources that might help and support you.

Following the holiday period and now that we have had a third week of school closures we have some updates to our communication with families. Over the next couple of weeks your child's class teacher will be contacting you, as a family, directly by phone. If you have any questions about the work being covered, any additional challenges you may be facing or have had some real successes please share this with your child's teacher when they call. There will also be an opportunity for your child to speak to their class teacher too. Now that we are more settled at Flax, we will also be adding some short video clips to the website over the next few weeks so that your child can see a message from their class teacher and/or other staff members during this period. We hope that this helps them to stay connected with our special school.

As always, please do keep in contact. If you email your child's class teacher or the office you can expect a reply within two working days. It has been lovely to see some of the great work that has been sent to the office account. This work is forwarded to class teachers for them to contact you directly, but is often replied to by myself, Susanne or Carol too. The creativity of our children and families is something to be celebrated! If you are happy for your child's picture and work to appear on the website and newsletter then please say so in your email and we can include them.

Wellbeing and our school values

This is a difficult and challenging time for everyone. As always, we are here to help. The weekly newsletters during this period have included additional ideas and links to useful websites. Please do revisit them and use them if you need some support. Remind your children of the school values and use these to support them moving forwards. They are all so important and helpful in linking to the actions that you are taking at home and can be a useful tool to talk with your children about how they are feeling. Check out the school website for some ideas and suggestions. (Website/Key information/coronavirus)

****Compassion*Responsibility*Perseverance*Courage*Friendship*Honesty*Respect***



Although we do not know when we will reopen and when we will see you again, I want to reassure you that we are still here!! We are here to support your children. If you are having any difficulties then please do let us know and we will do the best that we can to support you. As you will appreciate, in the current climate we are learning a lot as we go. Every day comes with new challenges and we hugely appreciate your patience and support in the meantime. As we receive new information or updates we will share these with you, although we often only receive the information at the same time as you.

The staff and I miss you. Please say hi, send a message and stay connected via. the office email account or emailing the teachers via. eschools and we can do our best to keep one another smiling and well.

Thank you!

Take care and keep safe,

Amy Townsend