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## Home learning expectations

Dear Parents,

We want to reassure you in these worrying times. We don't want anyone to feel stressed or overwhelmed by any work being sent home.

As a school, we know that it is not possible to suit everyone with our regular 'home learning'. Some families love having lots of open ended activities, others like very structured tasks/worksheets. Some like to focus on more creative tasks. It is therefore difficult to know what to ask you to do at home. We obviously value the education of your children but acknowledge that as a parent you are your child's primary educator. You will know what is best for your child, especially in these difficult times. What children need now is to feel comforted and loved – to feel that everything's going to be ok. Looking after your child's mental health is more important than their academic skills. How they feel during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they do during this time. Please keep that in mind, every day.

However, we recognise that some children need that structure and routine to get them through the day. With that in mind, we have provided some ideas on what you **could** do with them. This is not home-schooling. This is us working together to try to keep the children calm, occupied and entertained during a very worrying time for all. If you and your child feel that it is appropriate to try some activities then great, but if spending time in the garden or colouring in is what's needed, we don't want you to feel guilty about this.

We know that many of you will be working from home during this time. It is absolutely not possible for you to facilitate a full day of 'learning activities' with your child/children while trying to work from home and we want you to know that this is not expected. With all this in mind, we have sign posted you to various places already, but there is so much out there and so many choices, we don't want to overwhelm you (more is becoming available all the time). We want to reassure you that there will be no comparing of what children have done at home.



We are offering the same things to children of key workers still at school and those at home. Some families like routine and this could help the children in what could be a chaotic time. Therefore we have sent some ideas to do during the day but this is **absolutely not essential**. If you have multiple children, the task is even harder. Try and choose something that all the children could engage with at their own level.

As a school we are advising you to look at 'Twinkl Home Learning Hub'. Twinkl have offered free access to parents during the time of school closures. Here is how to access it.

Step 1: Go to [www.twinkl.co.uk/offer](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer)

Step 2: Enter the code CVDTWINKLHELPS

When on the site, go to their 'Twinkl Home Learning Hub' section and choose either EYFS, age 5-7 or age 7-11 sections. This will bring up options that you **could** follow. It suggests a daily timetable but you **do not have to follow this in any specific way!** It links to exercise ideas led by Joe Wicks between 9 and 9.30 each day. It has links to video content and follow up activities if you want them.

Children of key workers who are still attending school will be accessing the Twinkl Home Learning Hub on the days they are in school so that **all** our children have the same opportunities. We will not **at this stage** be sending anything else home for home learning.

If you want to do your own 'mix and match', over a week, a mix of activities **could** look something like this:

- 10 minutes reading something every day (independent or to them or via audiobooks etc)
- Some free writing now and then (write a story, make a leaflet/poster, write facts about a topic etc)
- Some practise of maths, eg playing online maths games, learning times tables, number bonds, counting forwards and backwards etc
- Some fine motor work eg Lego, cutting out, playdough, a bit of handwriting or letter formation practise
- Physical exercise everyday
- Some art/music/creative/project tasks where possible through the week, it doesn't need you to guide them in this, let them loose (if you can bear the mess!)
- If your child is younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better



We know that you will be doing your best. You are loving your children and supporting them through this difficult time. Look after yourself too...you need some time for you and children need time to totally switch off! Screen time is fine (in moderation/with guidance!). We want you to know that we are here to help. We are still your school and are here for you when you need us.

Take this opportunity to do something enjoyable with your child. Get out in the garden, learn how to skip, paint pictures, get them to help with the chores, cut and stick, teach them how to tie shoelaces, bake etc! Do what you can when you can. Keep them safe and happy. Just don't get too cross when they leave the lids off the glue stick!

Yours Sincerely

All the staff.

