

Sparsholt C. E. Primary School

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Tuesday, 05 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Like you, we only found out at 8pm last night that the Government were going to close schools after so vehemently insisting they would stay open. Despite this very short notice, we as a school had already made some contingency plans to ensure that your children's education could continue uninterrupted.

For the next few days, the children will be undertaking some project based learning activities which will be emailed to you today and uploaded onto the VLE/Tapestry. This will give staff the time needed to implement our remote education plan (see Remote Education Policy on the school website policy page - <https://sparsholt.eschools.co.uk/web/policies>) that we formulated back in October which will take a more structured approach (age and stage appropriate).

During this period of school closures, for all the children except children in Reception, class teachers will be producing a daily PowerPoint outlining the expectations for the children and the outcomes they expect by the end of each day. This, along with any resources, will be available the night before so that parents have time to print anything needed. Teachers will mirror what would have been taught in school had schools remained open.

Each day there will be structured activities set which will be built on the following day. Children will be expected to upload the work they have completed at the end of each school day to enable staff to respond to their work and correct any misconceptions etc. In the mornings, the activities will be focused around Maths, Reading and Writing activities with the afternoons consisting of a selection of foundation subjects such as Science, Art, RE, Geography etc. For children in Reception, there will be more of a topic based approach as is the recommended approach for Early Years.

In addition, staff will also regularly be recording some videos for the children so that they not only feel more connected with school but also with their teachers. Teachers will also be directing children to watch videos on the internet to explain aspects of their learning. Whilst we will be using online resources, we are aware that this approach is not suitable for all families so will ensure that there is a balance between online and offline materials.

We know that during the last lockdown, some parents of children in KS1 struggled to access suitable early reader texts for their children. Staff will be directing parents to online resources however in addition KS1 staff are currently putting together packs of reading books for each child that should last them for a few weeks. We will contact you next week with a suitable slot for you to pick them up if you need to.

Each class now has a dedicated email address which will enable parents to communicate directly with teachers if they have a query over aspects of the remote learning. Children can still communicate directly with their teachers using the VLE. As we are also supporting the children of critical workers, vulnerable children and children with EHCPs, staff will in addition to providing remote education be



in class, therefore they may not be able to respond to queries immediately. Staff will not be able to respond to emails outside of school hours.

We are also intending on offering some opportunities via MS Teams for children to see their teachers virtually and will give you more information about this next week along with some other initiatives we will be introducing/offering during this period.

On Friday, class teachers will be sending out a PowerPoint which will contain details including the class email address etc. and information for the children about the weeks going forward.

Please do let us know immediately if you need any help accessing the remote learning and we will assist you with this.

Yet again, we know that for many of you trying to juggle work commitments and supervise your children's remote learning is going to be a huge challenge and we really do appreciate the amazing effort you all put in last time and want to assure you we are here to help and support in any way we can so please, please do contact us either by phone or email with any queries or if you just want some advice.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Hanratty', written on a light-colored background.

Mrs Hanratty