



Naphill and Walters Ash School
Kilnwood, Walters Ash, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4UL
Headteacher: Kerenza Gwynn
01494 562813
office@nap-walt.bucks.sch.uk
www.naphillandwaltersashschool.co.uk

April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you are all keeping well and keeping safe. I know that many of you are key workers and do an amazing job, and I feel that we are doing a very small bit by keeping the school open for some of your children. Those children and staff who have been in school have been outside most days; they go home muddy, sandy, tired but happy. The dens have been rebuilt by some of the children – there are going to be some good engineers and builders out there in the future!

We are now clearly not going to be back to school until mid-May at the earliest and even then, if we do return, it is quite clear that school will be very different for our children.

I know there have been a few ‘rumblings’ about the work grids the teachers prepared for the children. I thought very hard about how best to support you and your children during this time. I knew that whatever we did it would either be not be enough, for some too much and for others just right – the Goldilocks effect!

I decided from the outset that I would not tell you that you had to be up at 8.50 for online registration, expect your child to be online or logging in to download daily/hourly chunks of work that then had to be done by 3.15 for teachers to review. It is not up to me to tell you how to organise your household during this time (or anytime). Many of you who are working from home might well be using the one laptop in the house and if you have more than one child, you may not have laptops for all your children. Primary school children do not sit for an hour on their own working without engaging with others. Many lessons involve peer talking, working in small groups, whole class discussions and continuous teacher input.

I know that some of you might have wondered why the teachers were not responding each day to work set. Yes, they are teachers but many are also parents and carers. I do not expect them to spend their days replying to emails from you or the children regarding work or tasks not understood. In a class we talk directly to the children, we give feedback to groups, tables or the whole class and more importantly we are there to model the work. Work is often practical and not just a worksheet.

If work was sent to the teachers at the end of each day to be 'marked' the teachers would then spend their evenings planning the following days' work. In school they plan, teach, mark/feedback and then frequently re-plan at the end of each lesson when they identify misunderstandings. Work in most English and Maths lessons is differentiated at least three ways, often four. When they realise that work is too hard or too easy for a child they move the child on straight away. Replicating a primary school day is impossible.

I was not going to send home packs of worksheets as there are issues around who has touched them, dropping them off in school, teachers taking them to their houses etc. By the time they had been marked, up to two weeks could have passed and the value of any feedback lost.

The work grids give you an overview of what was going to be covered by your child's class. You can then take your time, and then, depending on your child's needs, age, abilities and your own home set-up, you can decide how to organise what is covered.

On the sheet with websites, you can access White Rose maths, which is the scheme we predominately use in school. The work there is planned out in exactly the same way the teachers would deliver it including plans and videos and resources. There are plenty of great reading and writing ideas on the Literacy shed and Oxford University Press sites.

I appreciate that most of you are trying to work from home and are now taking on the role of 'teacher.' I do not expect you to deliver the whole of the national curriculum but if you just do the basics that would be great: read, practise number bonds, times tables, the four rules and spellings for each year group. Every child at the end of Yr 4 should have instant recall of their times

tables up to 12x12, so if every child in Year 3 and 4 can do that by their return there would be some very happy teachers!

I know some of your children have done some great work and activities and if they would like to send in, via the office email, photos, videos, Powerpoints, facts etc. that they have found out, the email will be sent on to the class teachers. They will then send a response but the work will not be marked and given next steps.

As many of you will know the BBC has launched a big online learning resource today and there is the National Oak Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/> which also has daily lessons.

Linked to this letter is another with many well-being tips and links. I believe that mental well-being is so important at the moment and I know some of you are finding things hard. If there is something you want to ask us then please get in touch via the office phone or email. Mrs Chick, who is in once a week, has already called some of you and will get in touch if you want her to.

We are extremely grateful for all the support you have shown us as we have adapted to these new circumstances, and we want to reassure you that we are still here to support you too.

I do hope that we get to see each other sometime this term. Stay safe.

Kind regards

Miss Gwynn