



OXFORD DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

HEADTEACHER

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Dear Parents and Carers

Home Learning Update

I know that class teachers very much enjoyed catching up with you all again last week and we are all relieved to hear that children continue to stay safe and well.

We are also pleased that the overwhelming feedback was that you appreciate the 'pick and mix' style of home learning we are making available now and most found you could dip into activities as and when it was possible around your other responsibilities at home. There was also clearly an appetite for wider learning beyond the core subjects of English and maths.

A few of you mentioned that open ended activities (particularly around writing) made it more challenging for some children to focus and in light of this (and our own concerns that writing is the skill children are least likely to be practicing effectively at home), Mrs Day, in her role as English Leader, is trialling a more structured approach for writing with her class this week which we may then adopt/adapt for use with other year groups from June.

Others of you feel concerned that you may not be encouraging the right methods of calculation in maths or are concerned that you are unfamiliar with some of the methods we use. Mrs Bradfield, our Maths Leader, recommends using the videos provided by White Rose Maths <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/> as these explain methods before children start activities. You can also find the calculation methods used in each year group on the website <https://www.northleighprimaryschool.org.uk/curriculum.php>; these demonstrate very practically the methods we use in school and are designed for parents as well as teachers.

We would also like to remind you that class teachers are more than happy for you to contact them via class email addresses in order to ask questions or seek clarification and send children's work for feedback, as many of you already do. These email addresses are as follows:

holly@north-leigh.oxon.sch.uk

maple@north-leigh.oxon.sch.uk

hazel@north-leigh.oxon.sch.uk

rowan@north-leigh.oxon.sch.uk

willow@north-leigh.oxon.sch.uk

oak@north-leigh.oxon.sch.uk

ash@north-leigh.oxon.sch.uk



Our Values: Respect Honesty Perseverance Creativity Community



In light of all your comments, we will aim to continue home learning in its current format for the remainder of the summer term (allowing for tweaks which will try to ensure that children who remain at home when school potentially begins its phased reopening, are getting similar access to learning content to those in school), though with perhaps more focus on writing activities. Also watch out for a change in activities next week as we recognize that it would have been half term.

Some of you mentioned that you have also completed exercise books sent home when the partial closure of schools began and wondered now where children should record their work. If you have paper or exercise books at home, then of course using these is fine. We have also organized for there to be a box of exercise books at the pedestrian entrance to school, from Monday 18 May onwards should you want to collect another. Please note that this box will only be there from 9.30am - 2.30pm on weekdays and that you should not come any further onto the school site when collecting one.

The wider experience of this crisis has also caused us to consider as a school that, as we move forwards, we need to ensure we have an effective virtual learning platform which will make delivery of remote learning easier in future. There are obviously logistical problems in launching such a platform across the whole school while children are not in attendance and communication with parents has to be remote. We are currently considering our options in this regard.

As always, I will reiterate that daily, very structured home learning will not be a possibility for some of you as you juggle other responsibilities. The smallest amount of regular practice in key areas will support children's learning when they return to school, but please do not allow home learning to create additional stress in your household. We recognize that you, like us, will be doing the best you can.

All best wishes

Deborah Seccull and the Teaching Staff