

Home Learning During the January 2021 Covid-19 Closure



4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

At present children are due to return to school on the 11th January so this may be a very short term intervention. However, as we have learned, uncertainty is the new norm and if the closure is extended we will let you know as soon as possible.

A few reminders:

- If you are not a teacher don't expect to become one overnight. You are still Mum or Dad doing their best and none of us could ask for more.
- The relationships in school, between children and teachers, and the school environment and structure are very different from the relationship between a parent and a child and the home environment.
- We must have discipline in our thinking to accept that we have limitations and that while we should try to sustain a degree of 'home schooling' it should be tailored to our own context and what we can cope with along with all of our other demands. Look after your relationships, look after your wellbeing and the rest will come!
- Education is a holistic thing: reading, writing and maths are important, but nurture and growth also require play, talking and listening and exercise. Play games, go for walks, watch films together and talk about them. Be structured, but also be prepared to be flexible and take advantage of a sunny morning or a whim to do something in the garden or to bake bread. Don't try to do it all and keep up with the super-parents you'll see on social media – we only see what people choose to present. If you do not get to all of the activities suggested by your teacher it's not the end of the world. If you can't bake or don't have a garden, it's not the end of the world.
- Much of the learning we are providing is online. It is also really important to have an off screen life. Reading to and with your children is a huge benefit. Seek out opportunities to read to your children and for them to read to you. If your house isn't full of books there are lots of online sources of materials which can be accessed.

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Our Home Learning Plans:

- Most of our content will be online. We will begin delivering online learning activities officially on Tuesday 5th January. Most teachers may upload some message or note before that to trial the system and touch base with you.
- Please let us know if you do not have access to a computer or other device with online capability and we will do our best to find a solution either with loan of a device or provision of paper materials.
- All classes will communicate with parents via **SeeSaw and/or Microsoft Teams**. Please make sure that you have downloaded the parent app for SeeSaw onto a device that is regularly checked. If you have forgotten your login details, please let us know and we will help you recover them.

One of our teachers will be in touch soon with a Weekly Learning Guide for your child's class. Here is a **sample** guide of what a week's learning will look like (with variations for age across year groups):



P7 Weekly Learning Guide

Week Beginning: 23/03/20

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Spellings Definitions- List 21 (Silent 'p')	Time Tuesday	Work it Out Wednesday	Pobble 365	Spelling Test Daily 10
Literacy - Heroes & Villains- Alex Rider Illustration	Numeracy - Parts of a Circle	Literacy - Heroes & Villains Comprehension	Numeracy - Circles	Topic -
Daily Challenge- Numeracy	Daily Challenge- Literacy	Daily Challenge- Physical	Daily Challenge- Art	Daily Challenge- Journal
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading

Literacy Learning Intentions

1. recognise how authors create interesting characters
2. find information from a text

Numeracy Learning Intentions

1. identify parts of a circle (diameter, radius, circumference)
2. calculate the radius and diameter of circles in a variety of contexts

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- For younger children, work will be uploaded at the start of the week to allow flexibility during the week. You may choose to do things in a different order or to leave things off your timetable and substitute them with alternatives. You may also choose to supplement activities from other online sources or through doing good old fashioned hobby activities with your children.
- P7 pupils using Microsoft Teams and the Class Notebook to record their work, we will be able to see it and give feedback. We will also upload videos or audio explaining answers to work that has been set.
- If pupils are unable to record work on Microsoft Teams and Class Notebook, they can use their exercise book/homework books. Answers to work will be provided on SeeSaw too.
- If you have any queries, we are contactable on SeeSaw and also email
- Teachers will generally check in at the start of each day Mon – Fri with a comment or a message. This may simply be to say hello or provide some feedback from the previous day. It may not be your child's class teacher who makes contact as teachers are alternating Keyworker and home learning cover.
- It may be the next day before comments are responded to. We will not be providing a 24/7 service in order to maintain some discipline and look after our own wellbeing.

Admin Issues

If you need to speak to someone on the phone and there is no response to the office number, contact us via email info@forge.belfast.sch.ni.uk and we will try to get back to you within a reasonable time frame.

Remember – this is never happened before and we all have more questions than answers.

Thank you for your support, we will get through this together- Forge-style!

Yours Sincerely,

Neville Watson

Principal