



# Arnside National Primary School

*'Aspire – Believe – Achieve'*

Headteacher: Mr Nick Sharp BA Hons (QTS)

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Dear Parent / Carer,

After what could only be described as an unbelievable previous week, things are beginning to settle down into some sort of routine. The situation continues to be very challenging and the information through the media is not always clear or realistic. In principle, it all sounds so simple.

Home learning is extremely challenging. It assumes that families have up-to-date devices, laptops, tablets, phones, PC's, printers, reliable (fast) broadband, technical knowledge and unlimited hours to sit down and support their child, and in some cases, several children. Parents / Carers are in a whole variety of situations and many are still working from home at the same time as home schooling. To put simple, it's incredibly tough for everyone.

Home learning activities were uploaded the day after closure and I would like to thank staff for their hard work and effort to get things up and running so quickly. All classes receive at least 3 hours of planned activities and this follows the format of Maths, English and a Foundation subject i.e. History. Additional activities such as PE are regularly posted to encourage the pupils to be as active as possible during the day. Mrs Pearce, RE coordinator, will be posting regular videos for collective worship through Class Dojo. These are great to share with your child and discuss the relevant themes and messages. It all helps to provide your child with an all-round experience similar to school. Please remember, your child's class teacher is providing daily Key Worker provision as well as online learning support – they will do everything to respond quickly but it may not always be instant. Class teachers are using a variety of resources for online activities. Some of the materials we currently use are: Whitehouse in maths, Hamilton Trust, Twinkl, PurpleMash, BBC programmes / Bitesize / iPlayer, TT Rockstars and phonics play. We also use the Government backed, Oak National Academy lessons to deliver Foundation subject lessons such as history, geography and computing.

**First and foremost, Parents / Carers are doing a fantastic job.** Families are working in many different ways: fitting in support around work commitments; splitting the day up to include vital family activities; and catching up with tasks in the evening and at weekends. What works for one family, may not necessarily work for another. This is why we have developed a flexible structure to the day where pupils can access tasks & lessons and complete / submit them in their own time. Underlying all the posted online learning are the basics: daily reading, number bonds, times tables, spelling, using money, constructing, telling the time, exercise, baking / cooking etc. There are many ways to support your child which are just as important as the set school lessons and crucial to maintaining progress and well-being. A happy, settled child is the most important factor during lockdown.



Arnside National School, as an academy, is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales with company number 07840925



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The new Teams platform is working well in KS2 and pupils are beginning to get more confident accessing tasks and engaging with their class teacher. If help is required during the day, messages can be sent directly to staff through Teams and they will do their best to respond in a timely manner. Registers are taken on a daily basis to monitor who is logging in and engaging with tasks / activities. All work submitted will be viewed daily by class teachers and pupils will be given feedback where relevant.

Across the school, there have been wonderful examples of home learning sent back to class teachers, including artwork, stories, history / geography research, construction projects, videos of reading, 3D CAD design projects and even photographs of a daily walk. Engagement is the key so please keep sending the work.

As you may be aware, there are numerous campaigns which have been set up encouraging people to donate old or unused electronic devices which could be passed on to pupils who are struggling to access online materials. We have received several donations but it is important that the items are fully 'wiped' and reset to factory settings before handing in. Also, a fantastic tip which came from the Local Authority is the potential use of gaming devices i.e. Xbox / PlayStation, to access online materials. These devices are often connected to the Internet and with a few minor adaptations, can be used to view class resources and activities. If pupils are sharing other devices at home, it may be worth a try.

Thank you so much for your help, support and responses to the home learning activities. Your regular feedback is gratefully accepted and it can only help us learn and develop new strategies and formats where possible. We try to provide consistency through the Key Stages, ensuring pupils in the juniors and infants receive the same opportunities to engage. We are constantly exploring new ideas and will aim to implement new activities as the weeks progress.

If you need support in any way, please don't hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher. We will do everything we can to help.

Take care of yourselves and look after each other.

Mr Sharp



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