

How to make home learning work for your family

We are providing lessons for each year group across the curriculum on the School Closure tab, but we're realistic about what pupils will be able to do during this period, especially if they have busy key worker parents. Although it's important that they access some learning, you're not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. For younger children, short periods of learning with adult support can be alternated with activities of your child's choosing throughout the day – they learn through play, too! Older children can be more independent learners and may just need a gentle nudge in the right direction from time to time.

The following tips are designed to help you create a positive learning environment at home. Providing them with some structure at home will help them to adapt to the situation. See what works best for your household.

Create and stick to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!

Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership

Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible and weather savvy. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible

If you have more than 1 child at home, **consider combining their timetables.** For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your household

Designate a working space if possible, and have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over

Stick a timetable up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day

Take stock at the end of each week. What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too

Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life

Give them chores to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home

Ask them to **help you cook** and bake

Accept that **they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone** – that's ok, but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits

Please don't worry about your children falling behind with learning. When things get back to normal, we'll make sure we get everyone back on track. Just do what you can and when you can.

Where to find learning resources online

There's plenty of support for parents online for everything from tools for home learning to PE. Your weekly lessons will direct you to the places we want you to access. But there are plenty more resources if you require them.

ORGANISATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
BBC Bitesize Online resource for learning and revision. Starting on 20 April, you'll also find daily lessons to support home learning	Website: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
GoNoodle Movement and mindfulness videos for primary children	Website: https://www.gonoodle.com/
STEM.org.uk Free home learning resources for all ages in science, technology, engineering and maths	Website: https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning
Twinkl This popular site for teachers is now offering free daily activities for home learning	Website: https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub
English National Ballet Free ballet classes streamed daily	Website: https://www.youtube.com/user/enballet
Home learning site recommended by the government (choose carefully)	https://www.thenational.academy/
Classroom Secrets	https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs
StarLine A national home learning helpline offering expert information and advice to parents and carers.	https://www.starline.org.uk/