



Main Street
Witchford
Ely
Cambs. CB6 2HQ

Tel: Ely (01353) 662436

Headteacher: Mrs Bridget Harrison
email: office@rackham.cambs.sch.uk
website: www.rackhamprimaryschool.com

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

I'm sure many of you will have seen the address by Gavin Williamson on last night's briefing regarding schools and education. It was really encouraging to hear the dedication and hardwork put in by teachers and school staff across the country was recognised, as well as have some rumours and media coverage clarified. As predicted, there is no confirmed date for return to schools and as such our teachers are continuing to be working hard at home to provide you and your children with interesting, progressive activities to complete during the closure. If you think it's appropriate, I would like to suggest you either show or explain to your children the part in Gavin Williamson's speech dedicated to the efforts put in by children. It is so important that they can see how vital their role is in staying home and supporting the NHS to save lives.

I'm sure you will be aware that the Government have released a new website under the name of 'Oak National Academies'. This has been set up extraordinarily quickly by 40 teachers from a range of academies across the country to provide free lessons online for all children. For further information on this website please see: <https://www.thenational.academy/information-for-parents-pupils/>. Furthermore, many of you will be aware that the BBC are also offering free daily lessons on their website, which can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>.

Whilst these websites are of very high quality, I would like to reassure and remind you that our Rackham teachers are working incredibly hard to ensure that the lessons and activities sent out to you are directly linked with our curriculum at Rackham and focussed on what we know our classes need to work on, which may differ to the schedule set by the websites above. I'm sure that over the coming weeks, teachers will dip in and out of these brilliant resources to supplement what we are sending out, but we do not want you to feel that you need to follow these websites either on top of or in place of what we provide you with. We are in a fantastic position at Rackham that we had so many teachers able to establish our home learning routines and planning so quickly, where many schools in the country are still only now in a position of sending out a list of links to websites such as the one above.

I hope this once again goes to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to support our Rackham pupils and by simply using the plans we send out each week (to the extent that your home circumstances allow), you are helping to ensure that your children are engaged and learn in a way that suits them.

Best wishes,

Mandy Ward
Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Lead
cedarclass@rackham.cambs.sch.uk

