



Shelley First School

Together we succeed



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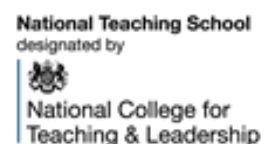
21st April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope that you are well. Many thanks for supporting your child at home and for engaging with the recent Trust survey. The results are important, as they will help us to adapt the approaches that we are taking to the schoolwork being set.

Of course, every family has a different context; this is reflected in the survey results. Some of you are working full-time and so you are struggling to keep up with the work set. Some of you feel that you could do more. We know that you have appreciated the support from teaching staff and we wish to build upon this. We want to therefore try to put your minds at rest regarding the work expectations and clarify a few things that have been raised by parents:

1. Teachers will read the feedback from the survey and if you have raised a specific question they will **email you directly** in order to support you. (Please be aware that some teachers are continuing to work on-site at Scissett Middle School and so their response may be delayed due to this.)
2. Teachers will make clear which activities are considered to be '**core**' and most important in terms of your child's progress. Other activities are not therefore necessary – do not worry if you cannot complete all of the tasks. Please be kind to yourselves!
3. In school, our timetable is such that we generally complete Phonics, reading writing and Maths tasks in the mornings. Other subjects are covered in the afternoons. If parents want to create a timetable with their child this format may help. Please feel free though to add in 'fun' things like baking etc. as this may motivate your child to keep to a timetable. If you do not need to use a timetable stick with whatever works for you.
4. Teachers will send work for each week or fortnight to the school office so that the work is posted onto the school website, rather than emailing you directly. The office will aim to do this on a Monday morning. However, at times we are experiencing some difficulties with the sites crashing and so please forgive us if there is a slight delay.
5. Home schooling is very different to the usual school day but below is an approximate idea of how long an activity may take. Please do not feel that you have to teach your child all day as we do at school – working at home 1:1 or within a small groups is totally different to teaching a mixed ability class. You may decide just to 'work' for a part of the day in order to fit in your daily exercise/family time and so on. Government guidance supports this: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>



KS1	KS2
Spelling/phonics – 10 mins daily (15 inc. handwriting)	SPAG – 15/20 mins daily
Maths activity – 30 mins daily	Maths activity - 30/45 mins daily
Reading activity – 20 mins daily	Reading activity - 30/45 mins daily
1 other activity – 20 mins daily	1 other activity – 30 mins daily
Baking, reading, painting, PC games etc. no limit	Baking, reading, painting, PC games etc. no limit

For our Reception pupils: phonics, reading, writing, spelling, maths and other areas of learning are usually set around a story/character or other stimulus. The packs will now be sent weekly or two-weekly and in order to complete them you will be hitting all the areas. Young children are still developing their thresholds, some needing to work **little but often**, others may now be able to work for **longer periods**. As we move forward, the weekly or two-weekly overview will increase in expectancy.

These are unusual times and we absolutely understand that trying to 'home school' is very challenging – particularly if you are continuing to work; some of our staff have the very same issues. The last thing that we would wish to do is to add to your stresses at this time. Please contact teachers if you feel overwhelmed or have any specific concerns about the workload. We are also happy as Senior Leaders to receive emails and we are happy to call you if you would find this helpful.

Please note that it is not possible for us to print out and then post work to every child as has been requested by some parents. We are running on a skeleton team and both First Schools are closed to staff following deep cleans. Therefore, staff cannot access printers or school-based resources. We feel sure that you will understand this.

This crisis has hit us all hard and we continue to do our very best under difficult circumstances. As schools we are here to offer help and support if we can. As staff are mainly working at home, they are not in a position to ring every child every week as has been suggested by a parent. However, if you think a call would help your family please make Senior Leaders aware.

Thank you for your continued support and we are sending our very best wishes to you and yours. We hope to be back at school as soon as possible.

Take care and please stay in touch!



Debra Knowles and team