



Wallace Fields Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Update Summer Term 1

So good to see the exciting and carefully planned activities being used by children each week and the feedback from parents and carers has been wonderful. The reaction has been great and the feedback is excellent from the children as well. We all coped well with the first two weeks of school closure considering we had relatively short notice on the announcement of school closure limiting our preparation time. However, the routines are now settling down and are bedding in. Teachers have been working hard to develop a smooth routine and this has helped engage the children well.

The teachers have also been tracking and following up the Special Educational Needs (SEN) children and vulnerable children to ensure that they are engaging with the tasks set at an appropriate level. The balance of online tasks and active tasks has been appreciated.

Now that the weeks are continuing we need to set a clear expectation and share a common understanding of the tasks set. There is now better consistency of practice across and between the year groups and this has helped reduce concern in parents and children alike.

The challenge now is the children should all be doing something. Though the tasks set are not marked or assessed they do create an active link between the children and their teacher. They give the day structure and help maintain the children's attitude to learning.

Daily routines include:

- **9am: Teachers log in** each morning and send a welcome greeting with a brief hello and a prompt for the day's activities, teachers are also adding praise and prompts here to help promote involvement and engage less motivated children.
- **11am Hive meeting** with pupils. Most classes have this running fully now. Codes and times are provided on the day so look out for those.
- **Times Tables Rock Stars** activities and other foundation tasks are set at the beginning of the week. Challenges and competitions between class groups are going well.
- **Google Classroom** messages and communication with the teacher.
- **The teacher will track emails** through the day. The teachers will not respond immediately – please only email teachers if it is very important or if submitting tasks.
- **4pm. Farewell from teacher and sign off.** Teachers send messages, praise individuals and send reminders and news before signing off.



We are very aware that some families have particular restrictions such as; limited access to technology, working from home pressures, accommodating your other children, and the problems of motivation and sometimes even fibs about what tasks they have actually completed.

A **summary sheet** (attached) has been drafted for you. It is a reminder about the expectation in order to ensure you are supported and clear as to what the children can be doing. Although teachers are not doing video communications, they are keeping in touch effectively via Google Classroom and emails.

There is no specific date or plan for the return to school and teachers continue to provide a weekly task sheet that involves plenty of activities that are not all online, freeing up the computer for others in the family. We send our best wishes and hope that you continue to cope with the challenge of these difficult times. Thank you for all your praise and thanks. Together we are doing a great job.

Kind regards

Mr. Steve Lee
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Wallace Fields Junior School

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