



Thames View Primary School
Bloors Lane
Rainham
Gillingham
Kent ME8 7DX
office@thamesviewprimary.medway.sch.uk
Head of School: Mrs D Daburn BEd (Hons), NPQH, MA
Telephone: 01634 335490

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Home Learning During School Closure.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you to all parents who have e-mailed the school office to indicate your requirements regarding place/s for you child/ren in one of our Vulnerable / Key Worker bubbles. **These places are now confirmed.**

Due to the current number of requests, Year's 2 - 6 will be kept as separate bubbles, with the Nursery, Reception and Y1 children joining to form one bubble. To avoid confusion, (during what we all hope will be a short-term arrangement), please use the usual drop-off and collection times and gates for your child's year group. There will be **no** hot meals provided during this time, but you may choose to order a cold packed lunch for £2.20, if your child is not eligible for a Free School Meal, or you may choose to send them in with a home packed lunch.

For the majority of the time, teachers will be working from home, preparing and delivering Home Learning for most children, via Tapestry/Edmodo/Teams. Teaching Assistants will be working in school on a rota basis to supervise the same Home Learning, where possible, to those children in our Vulnerable/Key Worker bubbles.

Please be aware that each year group will provide different learning experiences and in addition, this time around, some teachers will also be trialling Teams sessions or posting video recordings.

As during the previous period of school closure, we are acutely aware that each family has a very different set of circumstances, in terms of the number of school age children you may have, the number of electronic devices available, as well as the time you are able to commit to home learning, while you may also be working from home.

Whereas the expectation is that primary age children engage in three – four hours of home learning per school day, this does not necessarily mean that you need to be working with them for this length of time. We are committed to providing a range of learning activities via Tapestry/Edmodo and signposting children towards BBC Bite Size, the Oak National Academy and our Year group Webpages, however, children learn in many different ways. As we do in school, please encourage your children to become independent learners, at whatever level, and enjoy reading - (anything age appropriate), writing – (stories, poems, shopping lists, letters, instructions), drawing/art/making, educational computer programmes, maths in the environment (eg. sorting shapes for younger children), fitness and exercise, helping with the cooking, washing-up, cleaning, dog walking etc. No learning experience is ever wasted. See below for more ideas.

Best wishes and stay safe.

DL Daburn

Mrs Deanne Daburn
Head of School



Home Learning

If you find your family is in a position, for whatever reason, of not being able to access the activities on Tapestry/Edmodo/School Year Group webpages <https://www.thamesviewprimary.medway.sch.uk/year-group-pages-home-learning/> or you are waiting to collect paper packs, the following suggested activities are beneficial for all children.

- **Read, read and read!** Please ensure that children are both read to and heard read frequently. This can be reading anything i.e. magazines, comics, newsround, recipes. The more children read (or are read to) the more words they know and the easier they learn. Whilst children reading independently can be beneficial, it is really important that an adult listens to them read to check for errors – this even applies to children in years 5 and 6. Please take the time to discuss the story/book, explain unknown words and then try and use them later in the week.
- **Practise number bonds** (numbers that you add together to make 10, 20, 100, 1000 and any numbers in between!) Cbeebies Numberblocks episodes are great for this. If you search number bonds online, there will be lots of activities online for this.
- **Counting** – Please take every opportunity to count. Not just in ones (twos, fives, tens – any number)! You can do this in fun ways e.g. through movement, cooking, tidying away.
- **Times tables** - Please ensure children in year 2 – 6 are practising these frequently. Knowing times tables has a huge impact on what they can do in maths. Children who know them are generally better mathematicians. There are a range of games online for this.
- **Play board games, card games** – talk to them about strategy and logic. Any games that promote discussion, counting or other skills.
- **Cooking or any food preparation, particularly measuring and weighing.** This is also a good opportunity to promote new vocabulary.
- **Drawing and writing** – Take the opportunity for children to draw and/or write notes for others. They could write a story or a book for a younger sibling or relation. They could help you with a shopping list and/or write their own recipe. They could do some research on the internet and make a non-fiction book or presentation on something they are interested in.
- **Reinforce common sequences** e.g. days of the week, months of the year. Can they tell you which month/day comes before/after? Do they know when their birthday is? Can you teach them this?
- **Practical skills** – tying shoes laces, buttons, cutting, threading, using a knife and fork. All of these things will help with their handwriting skills.
- **If you have a garden**, encourage them to be active. Can they help get the garden ready for spring? Can you plant anything?
- **Keep them active with challenges** – e.g. how many star jumps in a minutes, how long can they balance on one foot for, can they plank? Go Noodle is a good source for videos for children to keep active. Cosmic Yoga videos are available on You Tube.
- **Anything that adds to their wider general knowledge:** countries of the world, flags, capital cities, rivers, languages, historical events, knowledge of the local area.
- **Can they make a family tree?** How was life different for ancestors?
- **If you are watching a film** – pause it / discuss it. Why are characters doing certain things? Would you do the same why/why not? Discuss the plot, what might happen next.

Remember the most important thing is to keep safe and well.