

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents

As our second week of 'school closure' comes to an end I want to write more than just my usual daily 'Hello'.

At school, our Ropley staff continue to demonstrate their professionalism and selflessness as they all take their turn in coming in to supervise the few children for whom there is no safe alternative.

Teachers who aren't in school are continuing to work from home: setting daily tasks for the children; planning ahead; responding to emails etc. The teaching profession has simply never had to work in this way before! The dedication to the Ropley children shown by the Ropley teaching team is simply fantastic. They are working harder than ever!

A massive thank you to all of you who have got in touch to thank the staff and to provide positive feedback about the work that has been set for your children to do at home. Judging by the overwhelming number of complimentary emails we have received, it looks like we've struck the right balance with what we are asking your children to do.

We really do appreciate that each and every family set up is different. Whether it's the amount of adults present, how many children are being home schooled, how many pre-schoolers there are, changes to employment, illness in the family or even the width of your broadband! I know that many of you are also trying to manage your own work from home too. Every family has its challenges. Earlier in the week I suggested finding timings that work for you. I know that some of you have done this and it has been successful. Others like each day to be different. Whatever works for you is just fine!

Remember, we're not expecting you to become a teacher overnight and replicate school and you shouldn't try to.

Our focus up to now has been on consolidating learning as we felt this was most appropriate during this time of transition. After Easter, however, we will introduce some new learning. The children's topics will change and this provides a whole host of fresh opportunities.

Our home learning will continue to set for the children via our website. (Remember to go to the Classes page every day). We may suggest some clips to support the learning as these can aid understanding. Nothing, however, can replace or replicate the wonderful dynamics that are present in a live classroom full of children being led by their teacher.



APPRECIATION ❤️ BELONGING ❤️ COMPASSION

[adminoffice@ropleyschool.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@ropleyschool.hants.sch.uk)

[www.ropleyprimary.co.uk](http://www.ropleyprimary.co.uk) Tel: 01962 772381



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



**Headteacher Miss S Vittle**

A minority of you have requested online lessons. At this moment in time this is not a route we will go down as a school. We would however, be delighted to receive examples of learning from your children that we can respond to. Through your own email addresses, or even through a phone call, we love hearing from you and finding out how you are getting on.

Some families are keen to have more learning. Rather than asking teachers to set individual additional work we have added to our home learning page on the website. Here you will find ideas and activities to keep you busy. You may, of course, want to search for additional resources on the internet. There are lots of ideas out there. Others of you have said the work is too much. This too is OK. Slow down to a pace that suits your child and your family.

Over the Easter holiday period, we will not be setting daily tasks. Instead we have an optional Easter Challenge. This will be posted as a document on the Classes part of our website. The home learning page will continue to provide links to extra learning opportunities too.

Please do all stay safe and look after each other. I know that some of you might be feeling overwhelmed by the idea of 'home learning'. You may also notice that your child's behaviour is more challenging. This may be due to fear, anxiety, anger or in protest to not being able to do what they normally do. It's a challenging time for all of us and the very best we can all do is to be there for our children and give them our love.

Please try not to worry about your children 'falling behind' or 'not keeping up'. When we are all back in school the teachers will focus on the children's educational needs. Teachers are experts at this! The main focus is your child's happiness and well-being. However you achieve this is fine. You may find learning through play is the key or it's a daily walk that helps your whole family. If you can help your child to maintain some form of contact with their friends then this will help enormously. How your child felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during these weeks has gone.

We'll get through this together and we're always here to support you – even if you can't see us!

My very best wishes to you all for a safe and healthy time.

*S. Vittle*

Miss S Vittle

Headteacher