

BLUE CLASS SPRING TERM 2021 (*in and out of school*)

Dear Blue families

Well that wasn't quite the way we expected to welcome you back! Thank you so much for bearing with us as we have had to navigate a complete change of plans since Monday. We initially contacted you to share our thoughts about how a short period of school closure would work out. Clearly this isn't now the case and so we need to structure the week more carefully for everyone - at home and at school. This week we have worked hard to use what we already know and have learned previously in lock down to set up a system that we want to share with you all.

Above all else we need to be sure the lovely Blue children don't lose their enthusiasm for learning whether they are at home or in school. And let's be honest - home schooling is extremely difficult. Extremely.

Here are some ideas to help us to make sure we are as supportive of you as possible and make this next term work for all of us.

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS	<p>Children in school and at home are expected to do <u>the same</u> activities. We do expect all children to try to engage with the daily maths task, some spelling activities and complete the short daily writing task as often as possible (as well as reading obviously).</p> <p>We have set a daily Year 4 maths task but also 'something easier' each day as we are well aware that many children are still trying to catch up from last lockdown and just don't have the content knowledge to tackle the Y4 expectations yet.</p> <p>There won't be any judgement if you're finding it hard to get your child to do the work and it's better if we deal with it sooner rather than later. We aim to use our Zoom contact to support you with this.</p>
TIME	<p>We have tried to set daily tasks that we feel are manageable for most children. Pace will differ though as the environment for home <i>and</i> school children is very different to a busy structured school day. Working in 20-30 minute bursts then having a break/change of scene before returning seems reasonable for Year 4.</p>
EVIDENCE FROM HOME	<p>Please don't feel that you need to provide significant email/photo evidence that your child has completed their tasks. Hopefully when we check-in regularly over Zoom or through phone calls we will see and chat about what the children have achieved. You have enough to do!</p>

CHILD CONTACT WITH CLASS TEACHERS	<p>Over the course of a week we will aim to have Zoom sessions for children at home around 3 times a week. The purpose of these is two-fold. Firstly, to keep a regular contact so children know they are still part of a group. Secondly to help you if motivation drops off. If children know that they are</p>
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	<p>going to be sharing a task or some work they've been set with Liz or I then hopefully it helps you!</p> <p>We will set these up ahead of time and let you know by email. The initial plan is to do this on Monday afternoon, Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning.</p> <p>You will appreciate that we are all still in school managing face to face and home learning as well as managing our own family situations so there may be times when things are late or not exactly to plan!</p>
IN-SCHOOL GROUPS	<p>As you will no doubt appreciate the structure of groups <u>in school</u> is subject to change as the situation changes. For this first week we have kept year group bubbles with class teachers but this may change. You can be assured that the children in school will get the same work as those at home and still be in contact with their teachers.</p>
CONTACT WITH YOU	<p>We really welcome and appreciate your feedback – particularly if you are struggling. This is not at an easy time. <i>We do ask though that you recognise we are up against it more than ever so you may not get responses to emails the same day we read them.</i></p> <p><i>The only exception to this is if you have a positive Covid test result that would require us to immediately contact and close a bubble in school. Please use the dedicated email positive@westchiltschool.com for that.</i></p>

Thank you as ever for your engagement and patience – we will continue to all work together to get through this!

Helen and Liz blueparents@westchiltschool.com