

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

Dear Red Class Families,

I'd like to wish you all a happy New Year, but it's not the start we were all looking forward to! We received very little notice of school closures, as you will know, but we have worked hard to use what we already know and have learned previously to set up a system that we want to share with you all.

The *main aim* is that children don't lose their love of learning, whether they are at home or in school. We are under no illusions about where and how children learn best but we will do the very best we can under the circumstances.

We've outlined below some key principles, provision and ideas which will help us to make sure we are as supportive of you as possible in making this next term work for all of us together.

LEARNING EXPECTATIONS	The children who are in school are expected to do the same activities as those at home. We do expect all children to try to engage fully in daily maths, reading, spelling and English. This will be delivered <i>via</i> Google Classroom, to which all Red Class children subscribe. Additional content - <i>e.g.</i> longer term projects, video tuition and interactivity, web links - will also be provided on the same platform. Home Activities for Spring Term - 12 pieces - are already available as .pdf documents, and I have asked the children to choose and complete ten of them.
TIME	The pace of learning is very different at home for obvious reasons. This is also the case in school as groups are smaller and sometimes mixed aged. We have tried to set daily tasks that we feel are manageable for most children. Sustained concentration may be more difficult for some children at home compared to the classroom, but generally 30 minute sessions, punctuated with a brief break before changing activity, might be a good starting point. The activities are generally designed to encompass some shared time followed by independent learning, but if you're not clear about what I'm expecting children to do please ask. Also, if you find your child needs a lot more of your time or has done everything in five minutes then it's worth letting me know.
EVIDENCE FROM HOME	Please don't feel that you need to provide significant email/photo evidence that your child has completed their tasks. Hopefully we will have regular check-ins and we will be able to chat about what the children have achieved. Using Google Classroom means the children can both submit work to me directly and can take responsibility for accessing the work themselves. You have enough to do without becoming your child's secretary!
CHILD CONTACT WITH CLASS TEACHERS	Over the course of a week we will aim to communicate with you and/or the children directly. Initially, I am going to try a Google Chat on Monday morning to set the up timetable for the week, and again on Friday to round things off. Then I will set up an open Google Chat after lunch every day, for half an hour or so, for drop ins, help, or whatever might be needed. Additionally we have individual emails for each of the children in Red Class so that may prove an equally effective way of communicating. We will endeavour to give you plenty of notice of video streaming/chat so you can be ready in time. You will appreciate that being in school with key worker groups and also managing home contact is a challenge so we will keep the manageability of this under constant review..
IN-SCHOOL GROUPS	As you will no doubt appreciate the structure of groups in school is subject to change as the situation changes. For this first week we have kept year group bubbles with class teachers, but this will change for some groups from Monday 11 th and quite possibly beyond this point. We will be in a bubble in the hall and satellite rooms with Year 6. 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.
CONTACT WITH YOU	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> <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>

Thanks for your help, positivity and support in these strange and difficult times,

Joe

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