

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

Dear Orange families,

It's far from normal service this term already and we all know that this could be for quite some time. Despite very short notice for the closure of schools 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 as a child of a critical worker. We are under no illusions about where and how children learn best but we must do what we can under the circumstances.

We've outlined below some key principles and ideas that will 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	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 do the work that is set. If this is proving tricky, then please get in contact so we can work on a solution. There won't be any judgement from me 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. This situation could be going on beyond half term.
TIME	The pace of learning is very different at home for obvious reasons but also 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. If you find your child needs a lot more of your time or has done everything 5 minutes, then it's worth letting us know.
EVIDENCE FROM HOME	I'm very happy to receive emails sharing what the children have been doing. If they know their work is being seen and valued, it should increase their motivation to try their best. There is no requirement to send me evidence of every bit of work they do of course. One or two things a week would be fine. Sharing work might also be the purpose of a group video call from time to time.
CHILD CONTACT WITH CLASS TEACHERS	There will be at least one piece of video contact most days. Some will be recorded videos like the ones so far, generally explaining more about the learning tasks. I will also arrange group or occasionally individual video calls to either share the learning from home or for a more general catch up and conversation. Children respond differently to video calls and so if they find them difficult there is the option to just appear on screen but with no expectation that they talk or interact. Emails are also a great way to keep in touch and these can come from you or be written by the children themselves (supervised by you of course).
IN-SCHOOL GROUPS	For this first week we have kept year group bubbles with class teachers but this will change for some groups from Monday 11 th . Currently Orange class are remaining as a bubble with me, but as you will no doubt appreciate, the structure of groups in school is subject to change as the situation changes. 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>

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

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