



# Purley Church of England (VC) Primary School

**"Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14**

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## Parent Newsletter 4 - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As time marches on, our emotions keep changing. Perhaps you have a routine that works well for you or you may be getting more and more frustrated.

Is clapping on a Thursday evening, now a part of your routine? I love it that there are more and more people out on my street every week. There is clapping, saucepan banging and car horns hooting. On Tuesday at 11 o'clock, there will be a minute's silence, in memory of the health workers who have died during this pandemic



With school closure being extended it is important your children access some learning. Teachers are busy signposting the learning that is relevant for your child's year group. I am so pleased that so many children are accessing and benefitting greatly from this learning. I have loved looking at some of the work and photos that have been submitted.

As time goes, on we are able to differentiate more so that this is honed down further. Please keep providing us with feedback if the work set, is too challenging. It is very different for a child to learn in this way than in the classroom.

There are of course so many other learning opportunities out there that your child may like to pursue that matches their particular areas of interest alongside what is set.

One comment I keep hearing is how tricky it is to manage to support different children from different classes in the same household. We are hoping to share with you some work that can be accessed by your children whatever age they are. They will of course produce different levels of work.



If anxiety is affecting you or your child, and you need support, please get in touch as I have numbers that can be contacted to help you through these challenging times.

Over the next few days, normally, copies of **Families Thames Valley West** magazines would be distributed. As a result of not being able to print the magazine a "Lockdown Issue" has been produced that carries a wealth of advice and downloadable resources — from mental health coping strategies to some ideas for educating and entertaining children at home. There is even a guide to the solar system with plans for building a family rocket and taking the children on a virtual trip to Mars! Here is link to the issue.



*Learn to love, love to learn*

West Berkshire Wellbeing  
Health and Wellbeing  
in Schools award



**How to support home learning.** Follow this guidance to create a positive learning environment at home

**Be realistic about what you can do**

- **You're not expected to become teachers** and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply **providing your children with some structure** at home will help them to adapt.
- **Experiment.** What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too
- **Share the load if there are 2 parents at home.** Split the day into 2-3 hour slots and take turns so you can do your own work
- **Take care of your own health and wellbeing.**

**Keep to a timetable wherever possible**

- **Create and stick to a routine** if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!
- **Involve your children in setting the timetable** where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership **Stick the timetable up on the wall** so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day
- **Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible.** If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible
- **Designate a working space if possible,** and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over
- **Distinguish between weekdays and weekends,** to separate school life and home life
- **Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day.** If you have a **garden, use it regularly.** If you don't, try to get out **once a day**

**Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day**

- Where you have more freedom in the timetable, **make time for other activities.** Add some creative time or watch a dance video from [Go Noodle](#) to get the heart-rate going
- Get your children to **write postcards** to their grandparents or to pen pals
- Ask **grandparents to listen to your children read** on FaceTime (or ask grandparents to read to younger children)
- **Give them chores** to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home
- Ask them to **help you cook** and bake
- Accept that **they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone** – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits. Check your internet permissions!

Kind Regards

*K A Fakes*

Mrs K Fakes  
Headteacher