

CONTACT

The Newsletter for Whimble Primary School

Issue 2-21

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Home Learning Support

You continue to do an amazing job, no one said it would be easy but we appreciate your support! We all have good days and bad days and we are all at different points with using technology to support our children. This along with intermittent internet access all adds to the stress—the cables must be on fire at the moment! We realise we are unaware of your home situation and we also understand that there are many things to juggle at the moment. That is why we are being flexible with our home learning set.

I would like to remind you that all children, whether in or out of school, are expected to comply with the Acceptable Use Policy suitable for their age - these have been signed by parents and children. If you would like to use them to remind children of their conduct on line they are available on the website on the Safeguarding Tab - Online Safety Policies.

https://www.whimble-primary.devon.sch.uk/website/online_safety_policies/298981

It is very important that both adults and children conduct themselves appropriately online. Generally, the Google Meets have been a great success with only a few teething issues. Hopefully, children will be getting used to the format and will be able to participate without needing the support of their parents, especially at Key Stage 2.

Things to remember to protect your child's and your reputation:

- All participants can see each other and what is going on behind them. Ideally, being in a space on their own with a parent nearby if required. Other siblings and family members should not be seen on screen.
- All participants can hear each other, including any conversations going on in the background. Be mindful of what and how you are saying things. Things are easily misinterpreted.

Your child's class teacher is working exceptionally hard at the moment trying to juggle both in school and home learning. Whilst the content is very similar, setting up remote learning takes a lot more time. The teachers are putting a lot of thought into what they set as they know it is often tricky to motivate children at home and they are trying to set things with resources and equipment they think you may be able to access at home. They are also having to cater for a wide range of abilities- feel free to adapt the resources to help support your child.

Whilst we want to have some feedback on what is provided, both positive and negative, please think very carefully how you word this. The downside of new technologies is the ease with which emails and messages can be sent by phone - some have been received that have obviously been sent in the heat of the moment. One of the many things I have learned in my role - type a response, leave it for half hour and come back and reread before sending. I need to protect the mental health of my staff in these challenging times too.

Home Learning

Each week I will try and add some suggestions of ideas and things to help to support you.

Session times:

As a simple rule we would recommend to multiply your child's age by 4 to get the approximate time of a single session.

So, for a 5 year old in reception $5 \times 4 = 20$ minute session whereas a 10 year old would be $10 \times 4 = 40$ minutes.

	Reception (5yrs)	Year 2 (7yrs)	Year 5 (10yrs)
9.00 to 9.20am	Activity 1 e.g. phonics	Activity 1 English	Activity 1 English
9.20 to 9.30am	Play based learning e.g. making a puzzle small world play	Brain break - play	Brain break
9.30 to 9.40am			
9.40 to 10am		Reading	
10 to 10.20am	Activity 2 e.g. maths	Activity 2 Maths	Activity 2 Maths
10.20 to 10.30am	Play based learning e.g. dressing up cooking	Break	Break
10.30 to 10.40am			
10.40 to 11am			
11.00 to 11.20am	Activity 3 e.g. reading	Activity 3 e.g. Handwriting, Sci- ence, PE	Activity 3 e.g. Geography or Computing
11.20 to 11.30am	Play based learning	Brain break	Reading
11.30 to 11.40am			
11.40 to 12midday		Doodle Maths	
Other sessions	Other ideas Art or funky fingers Watch a TV programme like Numberblocks	Other ideas Doodle Maths Games Practise spellings Watch a video - could be linked to today's learning	Other ideas TT Rockstars Reading Practise spellings Games

This is just a suggested timetable - blocks of time can be interspersed across the day depending on your own work commitments, for example, two hours in the morning, one in the afternoon. If you need to miss a day don't panic - we would recommend to follow the days in sequence as work is often linked especially in English and Maths so if you miss Tuesday, complete Tuesday on the Wednesday and then try and catch up. Please take the pressure off yourselves too - make a timetable for the week but appreciate things happen and this may have to be adapted. Effective learning only occurs when both adults and children are in the correct state - if things go wrong don't keep battling on regardless.

Remember learning comes in many guises:

Learning through play has been proven to be extremely beneficial—this is essential for our reception children and forms a large part of their curriculum, however, this type of learning is encouraged by all (adults too!) Many games involve working out strategies to win which means thinking ahead - a great learning skill.

Home Learning

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Please remember responses may not be immediate as all teachers are also teaching in class everyday.

Google Meets

We are endeavouring to set Google Meet sessions for two weeks at a time to help parents to plan their days. These may have to be altered due to staff training (yes, we are still expected to attend training virtually!) or something has cropped up at short notice with a particular member of staff.

Looking for something different:

The National Marine Aquarium are offering some home learning sessions starting today on YouTube. For more information:

<https://www.national-aquarium.co.uk/learning-at-the-aquarium/home-learning-sessions/>

Paignton Zoo are also providing some sessions.

<https://www.paigntonzoo.org.uk/education-clubs/school-from-the-zoo>

Guide Education - A free course to help parents help their children

As the lockdown takes hold once more, **we would like to assist your school by offering a free support course to share with parents and guardians.** The content of this course covers tips and tricks for parents to direct, inspire and feel in control of a child's learning at home. It distils years of experience from **teachers and headteachers who are also parents**, into bite size videos with practical ideas and reflection points to develop with their children. During the last lockdown we were inundated with requests for help and advice on home study, in our tuition centres and online. So we felt **a course that honours parents and teaching basics would be of use.**

Feel free to browse the video titles on the dedicated webpage:

<https://www.guideeducation.co.uk/parentsupport>

This site has some really sensible, easy to access tips. There is a lot of information on there but the clips are only a couple of minutes long. You have to register to access the whole site but there is no cost.

Support

For a whole variety of support and updates please look at our website for information:

<https://whimple-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/parents/266488>

Dates for your diary

February 2021

Monday 15th to Friday 19th - Half term

April 2021

Thursday 1st April - last day of spring term

Term dates for the school year 2021 - 2022 have been finalised and are as follows:

AUTUMN TERM 2021

8th September to 17th December 2021

Half term - 25th to 29th October 2021

SPRING TERM 2022

5th January to 8th April 2022

Half term - 21st to 25th February 2022

SUMMER TERM 2022

25th April to 26th July 2022

May Day holiday - 2nd May 2022

Half term - 30th May to 3rd June 2022

Non-pupil days (i.e. staff only): 6th and 7th September, 1st November 2021, 4th January, 6th June 2022

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