



Stapleford Primary School

(Church of England, Voluntary Aided)



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Friday 17th April 2020

Home Learning support

Dear Parent and Carers,

As we start our first week of our new term we hope to support you with a simple learning plan for each year group. We have now uploaded these to the school's website <https://stapleford.herts.sch.uk/parents/curriculum/>.

Many of you have asked us how to best help your children at home. Here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions.

How long should my child work?

Attention Spans by Age

Childhood development experts generally say that a reasonable attention span to expect of a child is two to three minutes per year of their age. That's the period of time for which a typical child can maintain focus on a given task.

Average attention spans work out like this:

- 2 years old: four to six minutes
- 4 years old: eight to 12 minutes
- 6 years old: 12 to 18 minutes
- 8 years old: 16 to 24 minutes
- 10 years old: 20 to 30 minutes
- 12 years old: 24 to 36 minutes
- 14 years old: 28 to 42 minutes
- 16 years old: 32 to 48 minutes

It's worth noting that some developmental researchers put the upper limit at five minutes per year of a child's age, meaning a 2-year-old could be able to focus on a task for up to 10 minutes at a time. Of course, these are only generalisations. How long a child is truly able to focus is largely determined by factors like how many distractions are nearby, how hungry or tired the child is and how interested they are in the activity.

Learning is most effective when it is enjoyed but learning on your own or in a very small group can feel really intense so aim to make any learning as relaxed as possible. We all focus better when we are interested, not under undue pressure and feel successful.

What is the best routine?

Children concentrate best in the morning. If you can establish a simple routine for working with your child(ren) at home it will help everyone. Build in lots of active times during the day; time in the garden, PE, dance, play with the dog etc. Break up the routine with some fun and laughter. Save the more creative, project type activities for the afternoon.

Set aside a little bit of time every day to do something that feeds the soul. Family time is great for this as are the "Worship From Home" activities that the Diocese of St Albans are creating weekly. I will continue to forward these on to you all.

What work will my children complete?

Your teachers will set you a list of tasks that they expect you to complete each week. Some of these tasks will be online but there is a lot of learning can be done without a computer. Work that is set can be printed and completed or children can write their answers out on a piece of paper. You can then send photos of your completed work to your teachers by emailing them to:

classone@stapleford.herts.sch.uk

classtwo@stapleford.herts.sch.uk

classthree@stapleford.herts.sch.uk

classfour@stapleford.herts.sch.uk

We have found that some children have been rushing through the tasks they have been set on Purple Mash and then asking for more work. Please take your time over your work and complete it to the best of your ability. If you rushed your work in class your teacher would hand it back to you so that you could make improvements. Teachers will continue to do this even though you are now working at home.

Reading something every day does not have to be a school scheme book, it can be anything. Learning doesn't only happen when you write something down so include cutting, sticking and making in your routine.

How am I going to motivate them to do anything?

Remember the advice about routine and how long you can expect your child to focus at one time for. Learning away from school is a whole new experience and it might take time to find a pattern that works for your family. Build in some rewards and motivations – 'Once we have done this we are going to do that' or invent a happy face chart that the children can see builds to a small reward such as 10 minutes playing table ping pong with you. Find a way to celebrate successes – e.g. send pictures of your work to your teachers so they can praise you, or make a display space somewhere to show off Lego models etc. that you have made. The more you can involve your child in their success the easier it will be to motivate them.

What do I do if they get stuck on something? I might teach them the wrong thing.

The simple rule of thumb is to track back to find where a child does understand and work from there. If you are unsure about something yourself, take the opportunity to clarify it with your child. There's nothing wrong with saying 'I don't know! Let's work it out together'.

Where can I get some learning resources from?

We have collected a list of websites you might find useful. These are in the *Curriculum - home learning* section of our website. We will continue to send more resources as your time away from school continues. These offer a huge range of resources and different ways to learn through games and activities.

There are many ideas for using outdoors as a place to learn. You could search for signs of spring, do a bird watch and make a chart, collect 5 things that are different shades of green and put them in order from dark to light or make a sculpture inspired by Andy Goldsworthy <https://www.goldsworthy.cc.gla.ac.uk/search/?search=99&what=circles> or Jon Foreman <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/sculpttheworld/> - Do send in photos of any you make.

Some individuals have talked about setting themselves a big goal for the coming weeks like learning to knit, do 20 keepy uppies without stopping or starting to learn a new language. Having time to do something that you've always wanted to try or improve is an opportunity rarely available to us in our busy lives. What would your child choose? We look forward to finding out when we all get back together again. We have decided as a family to use the exercise bike cycle to my family home in Devon. It is 242 miles so the boys are doing the maths and keeping a record of how far we have travelled and how far we still have to go. If we don't lose interest we are planning to cycle from Devon to the midlands to see Grandad and then up to the north east to see Great Grandma. After that I have told the boys we will probably be a little bit tired so we will head south and free wheel down the A1 all the way back to Welwyn ☺.

Thank you for continuing to support your children's learning at home. I understand that it is difficult to work whilst constantly being pestered by our little herberts. All we can do is try our best as parents to support them. Please do

not feel guilty when things don't go to plan. There will be good days and bad so any time you can give to your children whilst they are completing the set tasks is hugely appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shillito', written in a cursive style.

James Shillito

Headteacher