



Standlake CE (VC) Primary School
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Headteacher: Andrew Denham

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Friday 27th March

Dear Parents,

I hope that you are all OK and coping with the challenges of staying at home – it's not easy!

The teachers and I have had some lovely feedback from so many of you over the last week. We are very grateful for this and appreciate them a lot.

Over the last couple of days, we have been reflecting on the Home Learning Packs (HLP) and what we can do moving forward. It sounds as though, judging by many of your comments, the HLPs were a good, immediate response to the situation we suddenly found ourselves in. However, we feel that they are not the complete answer – we have to start thinking a little longer term.

As teachers, we are concerned about the education for your children in the months ahead. We have no idea when we will be returning to school, but the worst-case scenario could be September. Let's hope it isn't! That is an awful long time for the children to be away from formal education and a lot of lost learning time.

We need to try and strike the right balance between keeping the learning going and having reasonably high expectations. But, most importantly, we need to be realistic about what can be achieved at home with the pressures of 'home working', parents not being teachers and managing 'housebound' children who are/will be going stir crazy the longer this goes on!

We have adapted the HLP Menu to include some more activities that cover more of the subjects but in a way, we hope you and the children will be able to do. As a school, we strongly believe that we need to be mindful about the amount of 'screen time' the children are having, which is probably quite a lot at the moment, so have tried to keep activities more paper and pencil focused where we can. The teachers are developing the use of Google Classroom (in KS2) for some tasks but not all. It is important that the children stay in the routine and habit of writing for the muscle memory, physical development and stamina for when they return to school. We are also conscious that many of the children's touch-typing skills may be frustratingly slow.



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The 'pick up' of the HLPs was a great success. 126 packs were collected and there was rarely any more than 1 or 2 people in the playground at any one time. However, at a time when the government has told us to stay at home it would be wrong for us to be encouraging you to come out, even if it is part of your one form of daily exercise. So, we won't be continuing with this plan.

All of the HLPs will be on the class page of the website from 9am on Monday morning.

We appreciate that for some families this will make life harder if they do not have multiple laptops, iPad or computers for the children to work from or printers to use. For these families we will look to find an alternative way of getting the HLPs to you. To plan for this and to get a better understanding of how much 'technological use' we can expect from the children in the future, we need you to email the answer to this question:

Do you have enough 'technology' in your house for the children complete HLP activities, at some point during the day, for between 1-2 hours, without the need for paper copies of the HLP?

Please use the class email address to let the class teacher know by the end of today...

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Andrew Denham