



Inchinnan Primary School  
Communication for Parents  
Home Learning Strategies



2 April 2020

Dear Parents,

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March the school closed for an indefinite period of time due to the national emergency caused by coronavirus. This closure places an unprecedented responsibility on parents to play an unaccustomed role in their child's education. The added pressure for parents of having to undertake this role, at the same time as their employers may expect them to work from home or care for other family members, is an unrealistic expectation.

We have a few parents in our school community who are members of the teaching profession and will be professionally trained to support their child or children through this time. Almost all of our parents are not teachers, and although we know that they will do all they can to support their child or children, it is again not realistic to expect them to replace their child's class teacher or to undertake a role they are not trained for.

The health and wellbeing of our whole school community; children, parents and staff throughout recent days and in an uncertain future is a priority. Children work better, parents find parenting easier and teachers are more effective in their roles if they have good mental and emotional health. It is again unrealistic to expect parents to adjust to a range of new circumstances and 'hit the ground running.'

The period between the announcement that schools were closing and the closure was a frantic period within the school. Packs had to be made up, Seesaw details confirmed, Google Classrooms set up and children provided with the opportunity to use them in school.

As a staff team we have used the time since the school closed to review what we feel is the best approach to limit the impact the closure is going to have on your child's education.

We have also looked ahead to when our school opens again, and how through our actions when the school is closed, we are in the best position to make up for the impact of the closure, so it does not have a long term effect on your child's education.

The following sections set out how we plan to provide a consistent approach for all children during the period ahead and to be in the best position when 'normal' school based education resumes.



## 1. Type of Tasks

Currently the majority of the tasks children at all stages will be provided with will be revision type activities. There will be some challenge activities provided but we will not expect parents to teach children new concepts from start to finish. The revision activities provided will be decided by the class teacher's knowledge of the class and individual children. We have decided on this approach as it will allow us to revise and consolidate work previously taught as well as strengthening the children's knowledge and skills. Thus, fully equipping them when these concepts are built upon in the future. Revision tasks will allow children to work more independently, particularly in upper primary, and reduce the onus on parents.

When we return, we will judge the retention of knowledge, skills and progress each child has and if we feel extra challenge or support is required, due to a child's experiences when they were working at home, this will be provided.

## 2. Tasks Provided

We will endeavour to provide a range and variety of tasks on a daily/weekly basis. With our priority being literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing. We will still be trying to incorporate outdoor activities and active learning approaches wherever possible, as well as employing a lot of our, your and the child's creative skills.

Although teachers will set activities on a daily basis, we understand that everyone's circumstances are different and that it may not always be possible for all activities to be completed that day or even at all. Please don't worry about this, do what you can, we completely understand. If there is anything we can do to help or support let us know. All we request is that if at all possible your children is in contact with us on a daily basis at some point just to say 'hello' and have a chat with their teacher, keeping that relationship going and knowing that we are still here and care about them.

## 3. Class Seesaw/Google Classroom Management

Teaching staff require time to plan, prepare and mark the activities set for children. This means that Seesaw/Google Classrooms will not be supervised by your child's class teacher at all times during the day. Seesaw /Google Classrooms will be supervised by teaching staff within normal 9am -3pm school day. Children are able to post on these sites between these times but may have to wait for a response. If you have a question after 3.00 p.m and post after this time you may



not receive a response until the next morning. Under normal circumstances, Mr Wilkie covers all classes over the course of the week, for as long as possible he will continue to post activities for the classes he covers on the day that he would normally cover them. That includes P1 all day Thursday and P2 all day Friday.

Please be aware that staff have been asked to volunteer to work in the six hubs organised by the authority to supervise the children of key workers, or that staff may become unwell. For both these reasons your child's class Seesaw or Google Classroom may not be updated. If this is the case, then you will be informed by the Head Teacher or Principal Teacher. There are plenty of links on the school web page for your child to use should this occur.

#### **4. Seesaw**

As we have been using Seesaw across the whole school for a while. This will continue to be the main forum by which we communicate with you and your child. Seesaw will be supervised by teaching staff between 9am and 3pm. Parents are welcome to post between these times but may have to wait for a response.

If you have misplaced/forgotten any login or password details, please get in touch and we will reissue these asap.

#### **5. GLOW e-mail / Google Classroom**

GLOW e-mail and Google Classroom will also be supervised by teaching staff between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you have a question after 3p.m. please be aware that it could be the next day before receiving a response, but please be reassured that staff will get back to you or your child's posts.

Parents may decide to prepare their own programme of work for their child. It is the prerogative of parents to do so, but we will not comment on or mark programmes of work parents have created.

#### **6. Sumdog**

All children have been issued with their Sumdog username and password. Sumdog have currently opened up this site and children can also now gain free access to Sumdog reading and spelling. Children should be encouraged to use all 3 of these platforms on a regular basis, as instructed by their class teacher. This work should be undertaken fairly independently and at your child's own level and thus should not be onerous on the parent.



## 7. Accelerated Reading

All children from P.3 to P.7 have been issued with their AR username and password and have access to the quizzes through the link issued on SeeSaw. Reading an AR book at the appropriate level is again something that can be done daily without parental support. Children can check if their own books are on AR scheme using Book Finder (see letter issued in home learning pack).

## 8. Nessy

All children with access to Nessy have been issued with their username and password, and should be encouraged to regularly use this site.

## 9. Pupil Support Resources

Mrs Hunter who is the Pupil Support Coordinator will continue to monitor all children who have a wellbeing plan and support the class teacher in ensuring children with additional support needs are supported as much as possible.

## 10. School Holidays

The school stops for the Easter break at 2.30pm on Thursday 2nd April and re-opens 9am Monday 20th April. We would ask you not to post on the Google Classrooms, Seesaw or send an e-mail to a staff GLOW account during this time.

If you have any questions, queries or issues, then please don't hesitate to get in touch through Seesaw or Glow emails and we will do everything we can to support you in what we acknowledge is a very difficult time.

Please take care of yourself and each other at what is for everyone an incredibly stressful and anxious time. Try and enjoy the 'Spring Break' as much as possible and we look forward to welcoming you back to our virtual school on 20 April.

Best wishes

*Nicola McGlynn*

Head Teacher