



Billingshurst Primary School
Headteacher : Helen Williamson BSc (Hons) MA
Station Road, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9RE
Tel: 01403 782789 Fax: 01403 783124
e-mail: office@billingshurstprimary.org.uk
website: www.billingshurstprimary.org.uk

Monday 25th January 2021

Learning at Home Update

Dear Parents and Carers

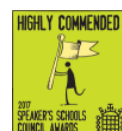
We are now starting week four of learning at home since the schools shut on 5th January. I am sure for many of you, like us, it feels as if it is a lot longer!

Some of you will be into the swing of things, some of you may even be enjoying learning at home but I know many of you may feel daunted by being in charge of your child's education. Please remember you are not teachers and we are not expecting you to be teachers. You can support your child, provide the right environment, encourage and praise but we know you cannot replicate what it is to be in school. None of this is ideal but it is the reality we are dealing with so I wanted to offer you some reassurance.

Firstly, education is not a competitive sport. It is not about who crosses the line first. It is about the experience, the relationships and about how the child feels about themselves. If they start to feel bad about what they are doing, or are unhappy, then they will not learn well. Sometimes learning is hard work – children need to learn resilience – but we need to keep a balance at this difficult time. The government have set the expectations of a minimum of 3 hours in KS1 and a minimum of 4 hours in KS2. Depending on your child, this will be an absolute maximum or not even attainable – certainly not every day. This amount of screen time is tough for adults so we do not expect our children to be in front of a computer for these hours every day. On Fridays we recommend no screens as it is our Flexible Friday – in school and at home.

Try to break up the sessions, do what you can, leave it if it is not working that day and come back to it, ask us for advice and take it one step at a time. Go out for walks, play games, bake, read, build something. If you do not manage to do all the planned learning do not worry – we will catch up when they come back to school. We would like you to at least focus on the basic skills – spelling, maths (especially number bonds and times tables), handwriting and reading. If you can do more than this then great but if you cannot, then they will at least not fall behind in the basics.

We would rather have happy, confident children returning to school who are excited about learning, whenever that is, than children for whom learning has become a battle ground and they now have no interest in learning at all. They will be back, we will catch up and they will be fine. We do not know when this might happen and that is even more reason to pace yourself. We are here to help so please get support from us via email and we will do all we can to help. We just cannot do the one thing we want to which is have everyone back at school. That will come but not yet. Until then, take care, do your best and have a little fun too where you can along the way.



We love to see what they are doing, whether it is from the planned work or not. Take a picture on your smartphone and email it in to us. We do want to hear from you all. Also do get in touch if you need other support and we can help, or find someone to help.

Take care, keep well, keep smiling and know that we are here to help.

Yours sincerely



Helen Williamson
Headteacher