

24 April 2020

Hello Everyone

This week we have tried to contact every family by phone or just to catch up and see how things are going. It's been invaluable in helping some families with any teething issues with the See Saw home learning platform. It's really pleasing to know that most of you are finding it very useful. We will try to keep moving forward with developing learning from the school side. It's also been great to see many more children getting involved with the learning provided.

Many of you have asked for advice about how to approach the work. Here are a few simple guidelines

### **Reception, year 1 and year 2 children**

The best way to help children aged 4 to 7 learn is to:

- sit with them as they work
- do active and practical things, rather than trying to make them sit and listen for long periods
- try to break down the work into shorter periods, based on how long they can concentrate
- take frequent breaks
- praise or reward them when they do well

### **Talking**

Talk with your child throughout the day and try to explain new words. For example, discuss everything you are doing and pick out words that might be new to them.

## **Year 3 to 6 children**

The best way to help children aged 7 to 11 learn is to:

- give them support and direction, but encourage them to do work independently too
- include active and practical things, rather than trying to make them sit and work for long periods
- try to break down the work into shorter periods, based on how long they can concentrate
- take frequent breaks
- praise or reward them when they do well

To check if they are learning try to:

- ask them questions as they go
- talk about things they learned

## **Talking**

Ask children to talk through what they have learned during the day and find time to talk with them more generally.

Hope these simple steps may be of use.

Some of you have also asked for other learning links.

So in addition the government launched the Oak National Academy which will provide 180 video lessons every week from Reception to Year 10. The link to Oak National Academy is available here:

<https://www.thenational.academy>

This may be useful for general learning especially in English and Maths.

## **FSM Vouchers**

We will continue to provide the "Wonde" vouchers from Astrea until we have been able to transfer to the Government voucher scheme.

Please can you ensure we have your most recent Mobile number and email address if possible so that you don't miss out on any important information.

## **Government Guidance**

Thank you for your continued support of school through following the Government guidelines. Please remember that the main aim is to reduce the number of children in school where possible and to limit the spread of the C-19 virus.

"If at all possible children should be educated at home, including the children of key workers" and thus supporting the NHS and other key workers.

Can I also mention if any of you are finding the financial situation difficult we are able to refer to the St Saviours Food Bank

<https://stsaviours.info/food-bank/>

That's it for now.

Thanks again for your support.

Take Care and Keep Safe.

P. Cross and all the staff at Greengate Lane