

love  learn  serve 

'LET US CONSIDER HOW WE MAY SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS.' HEBREWS 10:24

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you managed to enjoy the Easter weekend and the sunshine and that you are all staying safe and well.

As the new term begins, we find ourselves in a very unique situation - we are not at school! However, please know that although the school building is closed to most, the school is most definitely not! I will be doing my very best to ensure that your child continues to receive the best possible education at this tricky time. Needless to say, I have never done this before, so please bear with me as we learn how to best implement 'Home Learning'. We have held several meetings over the Easter holiday in order to develop what we hope is a comprehensive and supportive approach to home learning. In order to make Home Learning achievable, we have pared back to the essentials and chosen activities that will ensure your child receives enough support each day to continue making progress whilst you juggle working, either as a key worker or from home, with supporting your child with their home learning.

What is expected?

Teaching requires a specific skill set and it takes many years to develop these skills and become a qualified teacher. We understand that most parents are not teachers and possibly have no desire to be one! Please know that parents are not expected to be teachers, but we will need you to support your child every day to carry out their learning at home whilst the school building is temporarily closed. My aim is to provide you with enough guidance to be able to work through the learning activities each day with your child and support them to achieve success. We have elected to use Seesaw as our Home Learning platform as it is familiar, user friendly and has great functionality. This will be regularly reviewed and if it is considered that Seesaw is not meeting our needs, we will make necessary changes. We understand that some families may not have the necessary devices to be able to use all of Seesaw's functionality. If this is the case for you, please let me know and we will support you

to find an alternative approach. As with most things, it is unlikely to be something we cannot help with, so please do ask.

What will children be learning and how?

Below you will find a suggested daily timetable. As Mrs Lewis mentioned in her previous letter, this will help your child to maintain the sense of familiarity and structure that is usually provided by coming to school. We understand that you may need to adapt the timetable to suit your personal circumstances. I am happy to help you with this if necessary.

Please explain to your child that although the school building is closed, school is not! Every weekday is a school day and all children are expected to carry out their learning. It is for very good reasons that, for the time being, their learning will take place at home and together, working as a team, we will make their home learning experience as positive as we possibly can.

Every child is required to carry out **a minimum of 30 minutes** learning **every day** in:

- Maths,
- Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar,
- Writing
- Reading

We recommend that every child does **at least 30 minutes of physical activity every day**.

Children will also need to carry out **a minimum of 30 minutes of Science and RE learning every week**.

Maths, English, Science and RE are 'core subjects'. All other subjects are called 'foundation subjects'. Providing a broad and balanced curriculum is important for every child's education. At St. Helen's our 'Courageous Curriculum' has received recognition for its creativity and inclusivity. Your child would benefit greatly from carrying out **additional learning activities covering a wide range of the foundation subjects each week**.

Following on from the themes in the Autumn term of '**Caring for our World**' and the Spring term '**Caring for Others**', our theme this term is '**Caring for Ourselves**' and focuses on the links between Sport and the Arts on our physical and mental health and well-being. This could not be more appropriate as we begin this new term.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	9:00-9:30	Daily Physical Activity				
	9:30-10:00	Handwriting, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation				
Mrs Northcott available for support between 10 and 12	10:00-10:15	BREAK				
	10:15-10:45	Writing				
	10:45-11:00	BREAK				
	11:00-11:30	Maths				

	11:30-11:45	BREAK
	11:45-12:00	Times Tables
	12:00-12:30	Reading
	12:30-1:30	LUNCH
	1:30-3:00	Cross Curricular Learning Activities - "50 things to do while in lockdown" 30 minutes RE and Science every week

What will this look like in practice?

I will have a **two hour block of dedicated contact time each day between 10am and 12 pm** during which I will be available to provide online learning support for you and your child. I will give regular feedback on your child's learning. I will also answer messages on **Seesaw between 9:00-3:30 each day** and will continue to make **phone calls** each week.

Spelling/handwriting:

I will provide a copy of the various spelling lists. You and your child will be familiar with which is appropriate for them from parent consultation. Use these lists to practise handwriting using the cursive style which I will also provide. I will also provide a range of different activities which your child can use to help secure their spelling of the statutory words. **Please support your child with these tasks and provide feedback and guidance** for them. Ensure a range of methods of practising across a week and regularly check your child's spelling with quick, low pressure quizzes

Punctuation and Grammar:

I will provide a **daily** activity using IXL (joining details to follow), which **I will monitor online**. IXL gives feedback and is responsive but **please support your child to make the best use of this resource**.

Writing:

One writing task will be set each week. I will provide a link to a support video each Monday. Each week will follow the same structure, as shown below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Watch and discuss the clip, gather ideas and write a first draft	Check spelling, punctuation and grammar. Does it make sense? Correct any errors and upload it using Seesaw so I can give feedback.	Read and discuss the feedback. Discussion and consider how writing might be improved	Write second draft and make the suggested improvements	Write a final draft in best handwriting and upload to Seesaw. Be proud!

Maths:

I will provide a **daily link** to a **White Rose** maths lesson, which you can complete on screen, on paper or verbally with your child through discussion. I am happy to see photos of work, or worksheets completed on screen, or simply a voice message or note saying what your child has learned or struggled with in that lesson, but please ensure that **any misunderstandings are addressed by you during the lesson**. The answers are provided and the videos stop several times asking the children to discuss what they have seen so far, so sitting with your child and supporting their understanding is vital.

It will also be really important for your child to continue to learn and remember their **times table facts**. This only needs to take a very few minutes each day and they are familiar with methods that they enjoy and that help them, such as Hit the Button and the various songs on YouTube. They can also access Times Table Rock Stars through the details I sent previously.

Reading:

Please support your child to spend at least 30 minutes each day reading. This may involve a variety of activities including reading aloud to you and reading for pleasure. The children must also continue to use AR to take quizzes on the books they have read. **Once each week on a Monday**, I will set a **reading comprehension activity** which your child will need to complete over the course of the week. They can write their answers on paper or you can print and take photos, but if you could send it to me by Friday, I will be able to provide feedback. We also have access to nearly 1000 free books that your child can read and take quizzes on at <https://readon.myon.co.uk> and I will send out a parent guide to this separately.

I realise this is a LOT of information, but I am sure it will not take us long to get into a routine, and I am available to support in whatever way I can.

Looking forward to seeing you back at "Seesaw School",

Mrs Northcott