

# Home Learning Update 2

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Your First Week of Home Learning

We hope that all your family are safe and well. The Pilsley Staff Team have had a very busy week preparing Seesaw/Tapestry activities, marking them, watching some amazing videos and reading super responses about your children's work and their day. Your commitment to your children's education has been astounding. The teachers would like to thank you for all you've done this week.

There have been a few teething troubles. **Kindle Tablets** in particular have struggled to access all the work. Seesaw support line suggests:

- checking the App is fully updated
- that the screen is set so it can become 'landscape' (also an issue on iPhone)
- that no other Apps are running at the same time.
- To try deleting and downloading the App again

If you still have difficulty after trying these please contact Mr Snape on 01773 872378 or by email on [headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Some activity designs may be easier to complete than others – we are learning and responding as we go.

## Workload

We are reviewing workload for the children (and therefore the parents). We've had a wide variety of feedback about how much work there is and we are discussing this as a teaching team over the next few days. It may be a particular issue for bigger families. Many parents have said things are about right, but a few others that the workload is too high especially if they are sharing equipment between children.

We will take these comments on board. While we conduct the review please prioritise reading (phonics for younger ones) and maths if you are having issues. The work we've designed is to maintain as best we can your child's education with your support. Any feedback on workload is welcome via [headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk).

## Timetabling

Every one of us is in a different position when it comes to home life. Most families benefit from the structure of how we release daily activities enabling them to set an organised timetable with fun breaks between the activities. But we do know that in many families both parents are still working despite the shutdown, or their children are being looked after by friends and family. Some of you may be working shift patterns that make it difficult to help your children during the day, others will be working on 3 days on 3 days off work patterns.

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So please don't worry if you can't work with your children until later in the day, or are going to spread the work out on days when you are home – we understand how difficult it is. Do what is manageable.

Again, please don't worry if you can't respond during the teacher work hours between 9am and 3pm (until 12pm for Miss Allanson and Mr McGrath). These are times I have set to ensure teachers walk away from their laptops and do other things – they work so hard I know they will be there all night. Teachers will respond to the work the next day – I just have to make sure they also rest and get time to prepare the next day's activities.

What will happen, though, is that Activities will be archived on the Sunday before the following week. If we don't do this the amount of information washing around the system becomes overwhelming. Your children's completed work will still be in their Journal but Activities they haven't completed by Sunday night will be removed.

So for some children who may worry about what's not been done this work will be out of the way and out of mind.

## Reading

Regular reading is vital. Without the ability to fluidly read and comprehend all other work becomes so much harder.

For **Foundation 2** HarperCollins Publishers are working day and night to get the **Big Cat Phonics Books** available online. They have been amazing in their response – they had no plans to do this before the shutdown but we do believe they should be ready very soon.

**Y1, Y2/3 and Y3/4** have access to CollinsConnect. Your teachers will have let you know if this is appropriate for your children **AND** have asked you to reply to Class Announcements asking for your child's Book Band (you will choose eBooks to read from this colour band). Please set this up - the eBooks are of good quality and with the sound off are a great way of maintaining and developing reading skills at the right level. When the Big Cat Phonics does become available we will inform Y1 parents as well.

For **Y4 to Y6** there is Oxford Owl - a set of free eBooks that your teachers will direct you to if there is a work focus but you can also join through a parent log in at:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

## Pupils not Accessing Seesaw/Tapestry

Pilsley Primary School sets a high value on pupils enjoying themselves – doing the fun things such as baking, gardening, exercising and getting time to relax together. However, the school shutdown will have a long term effect on children's education if, as predicted, it goes on for months rather than weeks. **So finding a balance between work and play is important.**

Please, please do all those fun things – they are so important for you and your family with so much anxiety going around. But continuing their education will help them from day to day as well as ensure on their return to school they can be successful.

We know some children will be awkward and you may even have a few tantrums about the work we set for them. **But stick at it**, the more you set the routine of doing the work the less these issues will become. For most they will come round and once in the pattern of working will accept it.

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We do monitor if your child is not accessing any work and we will be in contact to see if we can help in any way.

## Week Beginning 6<sup>th</sup> April

After discussion with your teachers, we have decided to continue to provide some work at a reduced level for next week despite it normally being the Easter break. This will be daily (up to and including Thursday) like this week so it gives you more time to maintain routines but if you do find the work too much please focus on the maths and reading (phonics for F2) where you can.

For the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> April (when hopefully we can come out of our homes) teachers will be taking a well-earned rest. Mrs Mike and Mrs Morson will provide some purely optional fun Art and Science activities that may break up your week if we are still required to be stay at home.

## Feedback

Home Learning with Seesaw/Tapestry is completely new to us all. If you have any further feedback please let us know via [headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.ch.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilsley-pri.derbyshire.ch.uk). We may not be able to fix every issue or change things to suit each and every situation but we will listen. We intend on returning to a similar working structure as this week on the 20<sup>th</sup> April when the official Easter holidays are over.

Also, any feedback on the system itself (Seesaw) we can share with the governors and teaching staff would be greatly appreciated. In the near future we will have to decide whether to buy in to a full licence for the both Seesaw and the parent version of Tapestry, which as you can imagine is quite expensive. But if the general consensus is that in the short term it meets pupil/family needs during the shutdown and in the long term it is a new way to provide school homework in a meaningful way, then we will make that commitment.

**Remember, be in contact if you need us. We are all working together.**

Take care of yourselves.

Yours sincerely



Mr N. Snape

Headteacher and the Pilsley Staff Team