



Luckington Primary School
The Green
Luckington
Wilts.
SN14 6NU

Headteacher: David Cook
e-mail: admin@luckington.wilts.sch.uk
Phone: 01666 840297
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Dear Parent,

I would like to begin by saying a massive thank you to you all for your kind words, support, offers of help and patience over the past week. We feel incredibly blessed to be part of such an amazing community and because of this, we will cope with any challenges that the coming months bring.

We look forward to welcoming a small number of children back to school on Monday but the vast majority of children will be at home.

This is a difficult and anxious time. Each family will have their own set of circumstances that make it slightly different for each of us. In difficult situations it is important to look for positives. In this case, most of you will get to spend extra time with your families, time that we don't always get in the hectic world we live in. I don't want you to feel the pressure of having to provide a first class education for your children over the next 9 days. In the grand scheme of things, it's a short period of time - the most important thing is being together as a family.

With this in mind, for those who are keeping their children at home, there are a number of things that I want you to bear in mind:

- At the moment, the children will only be off for 9 school days, then it is the Easter holidays.
- Keep it simple; there is no expectation for you to suddenly become an expert teacher!
- There is no such thing as a silly question. Ask us, whether it is about learning or something else. The curriculum, particularly maths and grammar, have increased in difficulty significantly over the last few years. I know because I have to reteach myself things all the time!
- Don't be overwhelmed by all the different things you *could* be doing with them. Stick to the things we've provided and if you want to do more you can, but there is no expectation to do so.
- Don't feel that the children need to do a whole school day, every day. Go with what works for your family.
- Every family will be doing something different for home learning, so don't worry about not being the perfect home educator!
- The most important thing in this situation is being together as a family, this takes priority over anything else.
- Be mindful to look after yourself as well as the people around you.
- If you can, get the children to chat to their friends regularly via technology.
- If you have any particular questions or need support regarding home learning, please send an e-mail to homelearninghelp@luckington.wilts.sch.uk. We will

try and respond as soon as we can, but will do so in school hours. As I said, there are no silly questions!

- I have also attached a really helpful guide from Wiltshire Council. There are resources in here to help you talk to your child about the situation and tips for learning from home. Again - choose the bits that suit you, there is no pressure to follow everything; it is simply a guide.
- Many online learning platforms are offering their resources for free: <https://collins.co.uk/> and <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>.
- SATS have been cancelled - I'm not sure whether the Year 6s will be happy or sad about that!

As I have said before, it is important for us all to take things day by day. There's the old saying about not wasting today worrying about tomorrow, which I think applies to this situation. There are some, 'bigger picture' things that are out of our control, but there are a great deal of things we can have influence over, particularly at home. These are the things to concentrate on. Everything is developing so quickly, we do not know what tomorrow will look like, never mind next week or next month. From a school point of view, we will continue to develop our contingency plans and more sustainable platforms for home learning as things develop. By the time Term 5 comes around, we should be clearer in what to expect for the months ahead. I will ensure that we continue to update you as things develop.

Our staffing structure will look a little different over the coming weeks. I cannot give any more information at the moment, other than that I will be in school each day, probably alongside at least one other member of staff. With regards to parent consultation phonecalls, Mrs Kirkham, Mrs Newman and I will give you a ring over the next two weeks. If the timing of our call is not convenient we will rearrange for a time that suits you.

Again, I want to reiterate our thankfulness for being such a supportive and amazing community. We will get through this by working together.

David Cook (Head Teacher)
Susan McCraith (Chair of Governors)