

# QI Noticeboard

January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a start to 2021 – I'm sure everyone was hoping that the New Year would bring better news and we hope this is not too far away!

So many people are dealing with challenges and difficulties that this situation is causing us all, but none of us can truly appreciate what it is like for others.

We applaud every one of you, whether you are going out to work in a critical role, trying to work from home whilst supporting your children with learning or have had to make additional sacrifices in order to care for and educate your child.

Some parents do not want to have to send their child into school, with the fear of them bringing the virus back to someone vulnerable at home. Some parents are desperate to have their child in school because they are worried about them falling behind or because it's difficult to work from home and support their child's learning at the same time. Some parents are finding managing their child a constant battle, some relish this opportunity to spend so much time with their child and are loving learning together and many parents fall somewhere in between. Some parents don't think we are offering enough learning and want live lessons all day long and others are utterly overwhelmed, hate their children using devices so much and really, really don't want us to do live sessions. Unfortunately, there is no 'one size fits all' and no right way that suits everyone. For those feeling overwhelmed, please see overleaf for how to prioritise learning.

School is currently vastly different to how it is in 'normal' times. Some parents with children at home feel that the children in school are getting a better deal. This is always at the forefront of our minds and we are working incredibly hard to ensure we offer, as much as we possibly can, the same teaching and learning opportunities to all our children.

The teachers' time is spent mostly planning learning, recording videos, responding to emails, making phone calls and assessing learning, through emails, Teams or on paper. They cannot do all this and teach their classes as they usually would – and they really miss it! They are fully aware that they need to keep a balance between supporting those children in school and providing for those learning at home.

We know that younger children will need a higher level of parental involvement to support their engagement with the remote learning. We also appreciate that parents of children with Special Educational Needs may also need to support their children with targeted interventions, use of specific equipment or modifying learning opportunities to enable their child to succeed.

Supporting your child with learning at home can be absolutely exhausting, and we thank you for your enormous efforts in trying to ensure this continues for your child. Please rest assured that whatever you are able to do will make a big difference but keeping yourselves safe and well is the MOST important thing!

Our staff are working tirelessly to help support all our families' diverse range of needs using the resources we have available to us, in whatever ways they can. Our school has always been much more than a just a place of teaching and learning, but now this is even more important than ever.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if there is anything we can do to help – we are here for you!

Mrs Allen

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

Next week (1 – 7 February) is Children's Mental Health Week and teachers will be holding a session with their classes both in school and through Teams with that focus in mind.

As adults, the pressures of Lockdown on our mental health and wellbeing are concerning, but a positive mind-set can play a huge part in helping us build our resilience to cope with this.

Please do take a few minutes to look at the 'Support for Families' page on our website; it contains a wealth of information to help support emotional wellbeing, sleep, behaviour and motivation for learning - <https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Support+for+Families&pid=99>

Please let us know if there is anything else that may be useful.



## Learning at Home

We are endeavouring to meet all of the requirements placed on us by the Government Department for Education. For children at home, we are directed to provide a daily minimum of 3 hours (KS1) and 4 hours (KS2) of remote learning (this does not mean 'live' teaching). We have updated our website's 'Learning from home during Lockdown' page within the 'Our Learning' tab, with information about our remote education offer, which explains what we are doing for all our children -

<https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+from+home+during+Lockdown&pid=160>

So that we can offer our children at home the same as those in school, our learning each week is aligned to a week in school and is often therefore more than the minimum required by the Government. We understand that some of our families are finding it difficult to complete all that is offered and do not wish to cause any unnecessary pressure. Please do not worry if you cannot finish everything. It really is alright to take breaks, focus on certain lessons or take a day off if you need to.

If you can, try to prioritise the core learning (the English - reading, writing, phonics/spelling - and maths), that would be a great contribution to maintaining and progressing your child's knowledge and skills. In the foundation subjects (our theme related lessons), perhaps focus on those that appeal to your child the most. Any time being creative, going outside or exercising is, of course, of huge benefit and greatly encouraged. 😊

### Priorities for days when energy and enthusiasm is low, we would recommend the following:

1. Firstly, and if nothing else, **read** for a minimum of 10 to 15 minutes – this can be any text, something that ignites your child's interest. For younger children, this can include practising phonics and listening to someone else read. We have included information to support reading activities on the Free Online Library Resources page on our website – <https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Free+Online+Library+Resources&pid=95>.
2. Then, **practice maths facts** and mental maths skills like: multiplication facts, number bonds, or mental addition or subtraction through any activities that present themselves e.g. counting stairs, adding items in a shopping basket, or through educational 'games' on the internet.
3. If possible, **write**. It's important for children to practice and apply what they've already learned. Children could be about anything, for instance: write a story, a shopping list or instructions for a Lego model, or a description of a football match.

You may also wish to start a project about something that grabs your child's interest and that you can add to whenever the Q1 learning becomes a struggle. This could be almost anything and could include research, notes, drawings, facts, models, posters, writing, experimenting, interviewing friends and family, finding answers to questions or all of the above.

CBBC is airing three hours of lessons and educational entertainment for the children which can be accessed through your television (this is also available online on BBC iPlayer) -

<https://bam.files.bbc.co.uk/bam/live/content/z23fhcw/pdf>

## Educational Progress

You may feel reassured by knowing that during the autumn term, children made excellent progress towards closing any gaps in learning that may have been caused by the disruption to their time at school last year. We have an outstanding team, who constantly strive to secure the educational progress of all of our learners and our strong partnership with our parents and carers played a critical role in this success. We will continue to do this when all children return to school – hopefully in March! 😊 👍



## Statutory Assessment Testing

The Government have announced that there will be no formal Statutory Assessment Testing this summer. Whilst there may be no SATs, we are still committed to ensuring our children are ready for the next stage of their education and will continue to teach them so that they have the necessary skills - especially for our Year 6 leaving for secondary school in the summer term.

## Communication

Please remember to use our website to access information. If there is something you would like to know about or something you think we could improve, please use the General Contact Form to get in touch -

<https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/form/?pid=2&form=222>

To communicate with your child's teacher, please use the year group emails we have set up. Teachers do their best to respond as promptly as they can, so please be patient with them!

✉ **YearF, Year1, Year2, Year3, Year4, Year5, Year6@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk** 😊