



Whalton School News

Autumn Term

9th February 2021



Home Learning

Thank you for all your very helpful comments and suggestions in your reviews of your child/ren's remote learning. We sent out the findings and our actions in response to this yesterday and we hope that you found this useful. You and your children are doing amazingly well in extremely challenging circumstances. The staff have loved the interaction of the *Google Meets* and the chat on the Stream, although they can't wait to get back to proper face to face teaching.

We await, like you, the decision making on when schools will reopen for all children. As soon as we know of any procedural changes, we shall notify you as soon as possible

In the meantime, as always, please do not hesitate to ring school if you need to talk to a member of staff.

Reading list

Please find below the books we have been reading and discussing in the *Google Meet* sessions:

Class 1: 'My Many Coloured Days' by Dr Seuss

'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas

'The Same but Different Too' by Karl Newson

Class 2: 'Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman

Class 3: 'Who Let the Gods Out' by Maz Evans

Internet Safety Day Tuesday 9th February 2021

Please see the attached leaflet explaining what we will be learning about today on Internet Safety Day. The theme this year is: 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'. Your child's teacher will be posting lessons linked to this for your child. Please ask the children what they have learned from these activities.

We have recently distributed our online acceptable use policy, including our policy for Google Meet, but would like to remind you that the links for keeping your child safe whilst using the internet for Home Schooling can be found on our website in the Remote Education section. Or alternatively you can access them here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/parents-helpsheets/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/support-your-child-at-home>

Children's Mental Health Week;

Your children have just participated in 'Children's Mental Health Week'; this year's theme has been 'Express Yourself'. If you would like to explore this at home, free resources can be found at;

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

It includes some very useful hints and tips for supporting children and young people in expressing their characters and emotions through a variety of media eg dance, art, writing etc and includes a video message from our Royal Patron HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.



Essential lockdown learning tips:

Obviously, we all hope that we can return to traditional schooling as soon as is safely possible to do so, but in the meantime a lot of us are dealing with the realities of home schooling which can be a tricky thing to get right, as much as we wish it was easy there's more to it than just sitting down at a computer. One of the biggest keys to success when it comes to home learning relies on two things: routine and balance.

We thought it may be helpful in sharing some tips for Online Learning during lockdown, these are by no means extensive but meant as an aid in these difficult times;

1) It's all in the Setup:

It might sound simple but taking a little time to consider how you set up your child/ren's day can have a big impact in learning and helping your child feel settled. Try to keep everything as familiar as it can be. Mirror your school routine and try to keep to a similar timing of lessons to help keep your child stay in learning mode.

2) You're not alone - Reach out:

In our current circumstances it is very easy to feel isolated, but everyone is in the same position and experiencing the same issues as you are. Stay in contact with your friends and share your experiences.

3) Never feel guilty for taking breaks

It might sound counterproductive, but breaks are essential to helping your child/ren's mind stay calm yet active. Apply the same schedule for your child/ren's school day at home, they would not jump from one lesson to the next at school and it will take the pressure off an already intense day.

4) Reward hardwork

Positive reinforcement is a great way to help your child/ren stay motivated and will help them stay on track.

Hopefully you find these tips useful, you can adopt as many or as little as you like. These are only meant as tools to aid your Home Learning experience.

Here are other website that offer key advice for parents who are home schooling:

<https://www.e4education.co.uk/covid-19-resources-for-parents-schools-and-students>

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/3-ways-reduce-stress-and-build-connections-during-distance-learning>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/coronavirus-parents-working-from-home/>

Dates for your diary -

Friday 12th February - Break up for the half term holiday

Monday 22nd February - Return to school for critical workers and on line remote education

