

# Foxmoor Primary School

## Home Learning During the Prolonged Period of Closure Due to Covid 19

30 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to a small number of parental enquiries regarding Foxmoor's approach to home learning, I am writing to you all to clarify what we are doing, the resources that are available, but also to explain what we are not doing and the reasons why.

### What are we doing

On the school website under the parent's section, a subpage has been created called Online Learning Resources. To support you and your child with their home learning, we are providing some guidance on where to find relevant activities to support your child.

First and foremost, please make sure that your child continues to read. For those children at the early stages of reading please share books together. Reading is the single most important life skill that your child will ever learn. Without reading no other curriculum content can be accessed.

It would benefit your child if they can complete daily maths and English activities to keep their skills sharp and ready for when school reopens.

There are a wide range of English and maths activities but also a wealth of ideas for other curriculum areas on the school website. These can be found at <http://www.foxmoorprimary.co.uk/Parents/online-learning-rsources>

**Hamilton Trust Resources** - <https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/>

The Hamilton Trust resources for maths and English are set by year group. Weekly activities are provided with more weeks added as the days and weeks progress.

**Can Do Maths** - <http://www.foxmoorprimary.co.uk/Parents/online-learning-rsources>

Can Do Maths are providing home learning packs to practice skills developed during the year. As more of these arrive to us, we will upload them to the school website.

Can Do are also providing videos on their You Tube channel, offering guidance in how to approach each area of maths.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtamY3wAji85YpH5Zv4CTBQ/>

Alongside this there are many links to online resources that parents can use with their children. I would suggest you spend some time following the links so that you know what resources are available.

### **What We Are Not Doing**

I know that some parents will be in contact with friends and family members whose children attend different schools. For many reasons schools will have taken a different approach to providing parents with activities that their children can access at home.

When the decision was announced that schools were to close we had 48 hours to make resources available. This was alongside identifying those key workers critical to the fight against Covid 19, arranging support for our free school meals children and our most vulnerable learners and then putting rotas in place to ensure that each day is covered by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, a qualified first aider, a Designated Safeguarding Lead and the necessary teaching staff to provide provision for the children of our most critical key workers. In the circumstances the vast majority of parents agree that Foxmoor did a good job.

### **Virtual Learning**

The school website does not provide for a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). I have been in touch with our website provider and this would could take up to two months to arrange.

### **Online Live Lessons**

While teachers do have the technology to provide live online learning via systems such as Zoom, there are clearly huge safeguarding implications for this. The security of such sites is but one small issue. Please read this article for the sorts of problems that may be encountered. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8173759/US-investigates-Zoom-porn-hacks.html>

On top of security issues, imagine a scenario where a child is in their bedroom on live chat with a teacher. This could leave a teacher open to many allegations. I have taken the decision not to put my staff at that risk.

## **Printing and Delivering Packs of Work**

While school has the ability to do this, due to the fact that the government have given clear instructions as to why people can travel and that travel should be kept to a minimum this is clearly not an option.

## **Teachers Setting Work Via Email**

I know that it has been suggested that teachers should be setting work via email, receiving it back, marking it before setting further work. While this appears simple there are many logistical implications.

Due to GDPR regulations we do not give parents teachers email addresses. Parents are asked to email [admin@foxmoor](mailto:admin@foxmoor) if they want to make email contact with a teacher. Clearly it is logistically impossible for the admin account to be forwarding work from teachers to parents and vice versa when we have 265 children in school.

Marking of work and giving constructive feedback to children would be of little use. Marking children's work at the end of the school day is seldom done at Foxmoor. Feedback to children is generally given at the point of teaching or as close to it as possible. Where a child has not understood something, teachers and teaching assistants will often work 1:1 with the children on the same day. For maths in particular this will often involve the use of concrete materials such as numicon, place value counters, Cuisenaire rods or base ten materials. I am pretty sure most parents do not have such materials at home, so any explanations would not necessarily help children understand fully the concept that they have not grasped.

Any work marked would have to be scanned before it could be returned to children. I am not sure if all of my teaching staff have a scanner at home. I can say from personal experience that I do not. Yes, teachers could come into school to do this but again this would defeat the object of reducing the number of staff and children in school due to the governments social distancing requirements.

At this time, I am pleased to say that only two of my staff are currently showing symptoms of Coronavirus. However, this could change at any time. If a teacher had mild symptoms, then I'm sure they would be able to continue to set and mark work. As we all know, the effects of this virus can be severe. It could not be guaranteed that staff would be able to set and mark work if they contracted Covid 19. This would prove more disruptive for children as parents would then have to organise work anyway.

I know that some parents will be worried about how to educate their own children. This is an unprecedented situation that we all find ourselves in. There is no blue print for schools to follow on how best to support children at this time. As I said earlier, schools will take differing approaches due to their specific contexts. Foxmoor's approach is to provide a range of online resources for parents to access for their children. As more resources become available these will be posted on the school website and I will make parent's aware.

Hopefully the measures the government have taken will ensure that we can all get back to something near normality as soon as possible and we will once again welcome the children of Foxmoor through our doors. When we do, the children will be coming back to the most dedicated team of people. We all work tirelessly for your children. I am proud of each and every one of my staff and it is an honour to spend my working life with them all.

Richard Bridgewater

Headteacher