

Heronswood Primary School and Pre-



Love, Learn, Live



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Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you are all well and bearing up, during these uncertain and anxious times. In this unprecedented world it can seem a real challenge to know how to support your child's learning at home. The school's website contains a wide range of activities and tasks for your child to explore along with suggested timetables to support their development. <http://www.heronswoodprimaryschool.co.uk/home-learning.html>

Lots of fun activities and ideas are also being added to our Heronswood Primary School and Pre-School Facebook Page on a regular basis. Please check for our regular updates.

Below are some of the top tips which might be useful to you. Apologies if they seem obvious.

1. As a school we aim to foster a **growth mindset** approach to learning. This means trying to teach the children it is not, 'I can't do this' but rather 'I can't do this...**yet**'. We also try to focus on the child's learning rather than the child themselves, e.g. to say 'it was brilliant the way you remembered to read the question carefully', instead of, 'you are brilliant!'.
2. **Modelling** also plays a large part in teaching and learning – you could call it the Blue Peter principle of, 'here's one I made earlier'. This enables children and adults to have something to work towards. Demonstrating how to tackle a problem gives the children some guidance as to what to do themselves.
3. **Language and vocabulary** are the foundations for the majority of learning and talk plays a vital role in learning new concepts. We actively encourage pupils to rehearse their ideas with partners to see how effective the language they use is. Rewording a difficult concept can help with understanding. Children also say out loud what they want to write – there is a saying, 'if you can't say it clearly, you can't write it clearly'.
4. As a school we talk about the importance of **'brain breaks'** so it might be worth considering building breaks between learning. It is often said that on average a child's concentration span is their age in minutes plus one minute, e.g. an average 7 year old might concentrate for 8 minutes. Breaking learning into chunks rather than 'lessons' might help secure understanding rather than labouring over a subject. Remember, not all children are the same!
5. Making **connections** between subjects also helps greatly. Where possible relate to real life experiences. E.g. Set up a tuck shop, where children have to purchase their snacks and work out the right money and change.
6. As a school we know the importance of **reading**. If a child can read confidently they can access, process and understand the world around them. So if you need to prioritise anything, when you are working at home with your children, please make sure it is reading. If you are running out of books then please access the Oxford Owl books for free from this link - https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/?view=image&query&type=book&age_group=Age+4-5&level&level_select&book_type&series&fbclid=IwAR0LfpN7MDjMobf7wpHAerBavdhnSIErMdVnAqqUYMah5xoA1F14KP44-V4

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7. Continuing to develop **writing skills** is also extremely important for your child. We are very aware that lots of the links we have sent home are online, to try and support parents as much as possible, but it is really important that your children also writes every day. Pobble is an amazing resource as it provides a new picture every day for your children to think about and write about. Below the picture it also gives ideas of the kinds of questions you could ask your child and examples of the activities you could do based on the picture. <http://www.pobble365.com/>

If you do need any support, from any member of school staff, please feel free to email us at hwoffice@riverscofe.co.uk.

Over the next few weeks, we cannot guarantee that the school phone will be answered, so please email instead as these will be checked every few days.

We hope this helps just a little in these challenging times and we look forward to seeing you all soon, stay safe everyone.

Mrs Pierpoint and all the Heronswood Staff