

Dear children,

Hello! It must have been really strange not being at school this week and getting used to trying to do some learning at home. You are probably missing your friends too; hopefully your parents might be able to help you give some of them a call, or even a video call so you can see their faces and they can see yours! Perhaps you could even write some of them an email? That would be a good chance to practise your writing!

This is a very unusual time for everybody, and we don't want you to worry if you didn't manage to do as much of the learning last week as you may have wanted to, nor if you struggle to do it this week too. Try your best, we know you will.

Everybody needs some time to get used to this change, it is new to everyone, doing learning and work from home, and it might not be easy, especially to start with. Your grown-ups need some time to get used to this, and to make it work as best as they can for you and your family. Your parent(s) might need to be getting on with their work as well as looking after you and any brothers or sisters that you have. Remember to be patient with your family, with the situation and with yourself. That's a very grown-up thing to ask of you Year 3, but try to keep it in mind.

You've done lots of great work this year and it's important you try and keep up with some learning. We know it might be tricky but hopefully you will enjoy the learning activities we've set for you. You may find it harder to focus because you're not in school; but do try and have a go at some of the things we have put together for this week. We've tried to think of some activities that you can have a go at on your own.

We all miss you and are thinking about all of you.

Love Miss Thorn, Ms Noorani, Ms Akyildiz, and Miss Driver

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you're all keeping well and that it isn't too stressful time for you home-schooling! We know that this is going to be a tough time for you all in different ways.

We have put together our next remote learning activity bank for you to use in the coming week, but we want to make it really clear that these are just suggested activities and ideas. We recognise that many of you will still be trying to work, as well as look after and entertain different aged children in a contained space, no easy task! It's completely unprecedented times, so please don't add to your stresses by worrying if you aren't sticking to a learning routine, or managing to do that much of the 'learning' at all. Your children will no doubt be feeling unsettled or anxious and therefore helping them and yourselves find your feet will, we'll sure, be your focus at this point. You may find it works for you and your children to create some sort of structure, but it will take time to work that out, and unfortunately it sounds like there may be a fair bit of this isolation period, so there is no rush.

It's hard not to compare how children in your family and other families are getting on. All of you will have different support, resources and time available, and of course your children also have their own strengths and challenges. Just do what you and they can!

The wider curriculum activities that were put online last week remain the same but we have added some more maths and English ideas.

Have a look over them and pick out things you think you might be able to try over the week, but of course also feel free to pick your own topics/projects/activities that your child shows an interest in, and that works for you and your family.

Below are the areas we think are most important to try and do with some regularity. That may mean choosing activities from the remote learning or you may want to focus on these skills in other ways:

Reading – This could be to you, a sibling, a pet or even just some toys! The practise of reading aloud is really good for all the children, regardless of reading ability. Reading to them is also really important, or letting them listen to stories, be it on cds, the internet, tv or podcasts. This will help your child to develop their language and comprehension skills. This doesn't need to be a school book, it could be a comic, something online or even instructions for a game or a recipe.

Being active – this is obviously difficult, especially if you don't have a garden, but there are some things that you can do without much space. We're sure most of you might know this already, but Joe Wicks is doing a live PE lesson every day for children aged 9-10 from his YouTube channel, The Body Coach. Check it out if you haven't already.

Maths – encourage your child to practise their times tables and other number skills. Maybe choose a times table a week for them to focus on. In the Maths Remote Learning sheet, we will include three areas a week that your child can focus on, and can practise almost completely independently. There are also lots of online games and songs linked to specific learning objectives, but they can also keep their number skills flowing in more practical situations like cooking and playing games. Don't forget TT Rockstars and Numbots which they can play on their own, as long as you can spare them a computer, iPad or phone. We are also updating the MyMaths website. Some of the activities will be ones that you have already had but that we think are good to revisit.

Writing - Any real life opportunities for writing will be great. Writing letters to friends, writing a diary each day, instructions to play games they have invented etc. It doesn't need to be a sit down and write a story type thing - but of course they may be capable of this and willing to do so, so go with that too!

Good luck!

The Year 3 teachers