



30th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you're all well and starting to find your feet in this new way of life.

We know that lots of parents across the country are trying to put together a timetable for children learning at home and this may be working well in your family. However, we suspect that this may be more realistic for older children, who are used to a more time-tabled school day. We want to reassure you that there is no expectation from us that your child is completing daily structured activities.

In Reception, your children haven't been used to working in this way, as at school they have long periods of time (up to two hours at a time) when they are able to lead their own play and learning. This is because young children learn best when they are engaged in what they are doing and when they have initiated an activity themselves. If you are able to be more flexible with their time, they may surprise you with how long they are able to focus on play activities, including junk modelling, play dough, drawing and small world/imaginative play. If you could spend five minutes interacting in their play to encourage them, you could suggest some ways they could extend what they're doing, or set them a challenge related to their play, this would be really beneficial, where possible.

In terms of more focussed activities, we find that little and often is best. If you can, provide opportunities every day for them to practise writing their name, count real objects around the house and spend ten minutes reading a story to them and discussing it. Real life writing opportunities are great for children to practise their writing skills, such as making a shopping list, writing a card to a friend or sending letters to family members they can't see at the moment.

We've put together some new learning activities for your children to do at home this week. If you are able to facilitate these, we hope you find them helpful and that your children enjoy them.

Very best wishes,

The Reception team

Headteacher Leon Choueke

Letter to the children

Hi Reception!

We hope you're all okay and staying healthy at home. Are you managing to do any exercise? It can be tricky to keep active, especially if you don't have a garden, but remember it will help you to stay fit and healthy. We have all been trying to do PE with Joe Wicks every morning on <https://www.youtube.com/> at 9 o'clock – have you had a go at this too? You don't need to have lots of space to do this and it's really good fun, so hopefully you can give it a go too.

Us teachers have just had a video-call, which was lots of fun! It was really nice to see each other and have a chat. Have you been able to chat with any of your friends? If your parents aren't too busy, you could ask them to help you video-call someone from your class.

In our video-call, we were planning some more fun activities for you to have a go at this week. It would be great if you can have a go at some of these. If you do any writing or pictures, you could keep them safe so you can show them to us when we are all back at school. We'd love to see all the learning you're doing at home.

We hope you're remembering to be good and to be kind to everyone in your family. We miss you and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Love from

All of the Reception teachers

Headteacher Leon Choueke