



Edgewood Primary School

Building skills and values for life

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Wednesday, 18 March 2020

Dear parents /carers,

As a school, we are continuing to remain open and provide education for the children until we are told otherwise by the government. However, as the situation is now changing on a daily basis, it seems sensible to ensure that you have work packs for your children, so that they can continue their learning from home.

The packs have been put together by class teachers with enough work to last up to the Easter holidays and beyond. Whenever children return to school after any closures, they can hand in whatever they have completed to their class teacher. We have also included a range of links to online activities and websites.

If we do close, we will keep in touch with you via text messages, which will direct you to any letters that we put on the school's website.

How to create a positive home learning environment

This is clearly an extremely challenging time for the whole country and we recognise that getting children to do school work at home isn't always straightforward. With this in mind, here are a few tips which you may find useful:

1. Set a schedule

Keeping children in a routine during uncertain times like this can provide stability and reduce anxiety. Because of the length of time that could be involved, it is important that children do not see this as a holiday and for them to understand that they would otherwise be at school.

2. Spend time outside.

Every day, no matter the weather. It doesn't have to be long. Have your children play in the mud or splash in the rain, exercise or play football in the garden. It will be good for everyone's health! If you really can't manage much, stand in the garden or open a window for 10 minutes. Obviously, when doing this you just need to make sure that they are maintaining social distancing.

3. Limit screen time.

Use this very sparingly and only after completing tasks or as a last resort. When possible, redirect them to educational or more positive screen activities.

4. Find focused activities.

Build things, play games, complete puzzles, read, colour or build with Lego etc.



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5. If you or your kids are grumpy, have a break.

Eat a snack. Drink water. Have a break. See step 2 again.

5. Be positive.

Try to be positive! It will be a challenging time in such difficult circumstances, but just try your best. Also, make sure you are firm when requesting children to carry out a task.

6. Try to find joy and opportunity in this extra time with your children.

What do you enjoy? Share it with your children. What do they enjoy? Try to share in their enjoyment and come alongside them. Take time to just enjoy being with them.

7. If your children ask you any question, find out about it together!

Look up how bridges work, make a meal from a country they're curious about, find out more about plants in your garden, research why birds sing and how their songs differ... Whatever they're curious about, take it seriously and add on to it!

8. Behaviour.

Set clear boundaries and set a routine and schedule. If old enough, have your children help with washing dishes, clothes, cleaning up, etc. If they don't know how, teach them.

Here is a suggested daily schedule for all ages that includes time outside, learning time, creative time and more. You may want to talk to your children about their normal daily schedule at school and try to copy it to some extent. Hopefully it will help keep things as normal as possible for your children. Obviously, this is just a suggestion and it may not be right for everyone.

Suggested timetable

Before 09.00 am	Wake up	Wake up, eat breakfast, get dressed and washed.
09.00-10.00	Fresh air	In the back garden for exercise.
10.00-11.00	Learning time	Work on learning pack or online activities.
11.00-12.00	Creative time	Play games, creative homework, lego etc.
12.00	Lunch	
12.30	Job time	Tidy bedroom, help with jobs around the house.
1.00-2.30	Reading time	Puzzles, story, reading book.
2.30-4.00	Learning time	Work on learning pack or online activities.
4.00-5.00	Fresh air	In the back garden for exercise.
5.00-6.00	Dinner	
6.00-8.00	Screen time	Watch television, play on Xbox etc.
8.00	Bedtime	

Most importantly, please look after yourselves and your loved ones at this difficult time. I am sure as a community that we will come through this together.

Yours faithfully,

M. Curtis

Matt Curtis
Deputy Headteacher