



# Inkpen Primary School

*Aiming high*

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Headteacher: Ms J Kanisius

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we move into the 4<sup>th</sup> week of “school closure” I thought I would reflect on how things have progressed since the closures were announced.

All around the country, schools and whole communities spent the 2 weeks prior to the Easter holidays learning to work remotely. Some parents were worrying that their children wouldn't have enough work to do, whilst others felt the opposite. The children though, were doing brilliantly, often with limited IT facilities and we have all been so impressed how they have risen to the challenge.

With the Easter break coming to an end, the children now need to continue to work from home and we at school will continue to support in any way we can. If there is anything anyone would like to borrow from school to help your children, during this time, then please email me and we can sort something out. You might want to take some daily exercise past the school during opening hours and we can then pass a package to you. If you are further away, there may be other ways things could be delivered. We only ask that when we return to school, anything borrowed is returned as our resources are very precious! These could include photocopies of maths work, reading books, paper, 100 squares, number lines, times table grids – if you need something just ask and we will see what we can do.

Below are some constructive comments shared by an organisation called The Key, which many schools use for common sense advice –please use or ignore it as you wish...

## **Be realistic about what you can do:**

You are not expected to become teachers and your children are not expected to learn as they do in school. Simply providing your children with some structure at home will help them to adapt. Use the tips below to help you make this work for your household and please let us know if things are difficult. Experiment in the first week, then take stock...

- Ask your children, involve them too
- Share the load if there are other adults at home
- Split the day in to set time slots and take turns so you can do your own work
- Take care of your own health and wellbeing – remember the advice on planes is to put your own oxygen mask on first before helping others.
- This is all new – give it time to settle
- Create and stick to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure children are dressed before starting the “school” day – avoid staying in pyjamas.
- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible. It is a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it will give them ownership.
- Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible. If a task or activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible.
- If you have more than 1 child at home, consider combining their timetables. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for you
- Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the school day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life

As I said, please feel free to take as much from this as you wish and know that if you wish to email, I will always try to sort out any queries. If you wish to phone I am in school from about 8.00 until 3.00 each day and happy to talk

As ever,  
Thank you for all your support,

Mrs K