

20th March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Firstly, we hope this letter finds you all well and we look forward to supporting the at home learning over the coming weeks.

We have put together an initial list of websites that will enable you to begin learning from home. This is by no means an exhaustive list but is a starting point. The class Glow page will be regularly updated, and you can communicate with us there. The list of websites provided can be used in addition (and as an extension) to any set work given by us via Google Classroom. Your child will be able to access Glow using their individual log on. Google Classroom is accessed using a tile on their Glow page. It is possible to connect to Glow through laptops, ipads, iphones and indeed XBOX and PS4, with tutorials online for the latter two options.

Literacy

Reading

We would always encourage children to read daily and from a wide range of texts. Please encourage your child to read for enjoyment as often as possible! As a learning tool why not try

- Book detective tasks – these can be found at the front of your child's diary and are an excellent way of exploring a text.
- Set up a virtual book group with friends where you could share reviews, discuss favourite authors and give recommendations.
- Epic Reading is a website with access to thousands of books, we have created an online account and pupils can log in as follows. Open the following website www.getepic.com/students

Login with this code mbu9564 and then select their name.

Writing

Keep on writing! It is so important that your child practices writing skills daily. Take time to correct spelling, punctuation and grammar together. Below are some ideas to get writing!

- Be a historian. In this eventful time keep a diary about daily life. What is it like to be a child living through Coronavirus? How has it changed your daily life?
- Write an imaginative story. There are a range of excellent story starters on <https://www.literacyshed.com/story-starters.html>

- Write an acrostic poem or a haiku about a subject of your choice.
- Practise your handwriting. Have you started your letters in the correct place?
- Become a super speedy typist. Try using BBC Dance Mat
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>

Listening and Talking

- Watch Newsround daily, take notes about events and discuss the news with a family member.
- Phone a family member or friend and talk about your day. Remember to ask questions about what they have been doing.

Numeracy and Maths

- Access Sumdog at home using your log on. It is an excellent way of keeping your skills fresh.
- The website <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/> has a lot of excellent maths games.
- Practical activities such as baking or cooking will allow children to practise weighing, measuring and fractions.
- Tell the time! Look at TV scheduling or timetables and discuss timings.
- Practise times tables. They can always get faster!

Health and Wellbeing

- If possible, get outdoors, daily exercise is so important. Ride a bike, go for a walk or play a game.
- If it's a rainy day complete an indoor workout. There are lots to choose from. Joe Wicks (The Body Coach) has just announced daily PE lessons via his Youtube account.
<https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>
- The Live n Learn website shared in a previous newsletter- parent code is 8278 will provide growth mindset resources. We know that mental health is equally as important as physical health.
<https://live-n-learn.co.uk/>

Science

- TigTag has a host of videos and ideas.
- Science Sparks is another good website for science ideas. <https://www.science-sparks.com/>

- The SSPCA and RSPB have dedicated parts of their websites for children, lots to see in gardens at this time of year. Watch out for nesting birds and perhaps build a minibeast hotel!

Topic

What a wonderful time to be learning about Europe! There will be so many ways to explore other countries through the news and current events. Why not try

- Finding countries on a map. Pick a new country each day and find out as much information as you can!
- Use ICT skills to create PowerPoints or fact files about a chosen country.
- Create a scrapbook of facts you have found
- Websites such as National Geographic Kids <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/> is an excellent source of information about the world around us.

We hope this is a helpful starting point and we can assure you that we will do our utmost to support the children and continue their learning during this unprecedented time.

Mrs Adam and Mrs Morrison

