

14th April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you, your children and your wider families well at this time. This is an uncertain time for us all but I wanted to reassure you that we are only at the end of the phone or a text message away if you need any advice or support. Some of our admin team are working remotely but they are picking up messages and sharing with the relevant staff back in school so please continue to contact us that way, too. I would like to take this opportunity, too to thank you for the kind words and messages that are coming into school. These really do help at this challenging time – thank you from us all.

As we move into the Summer term, we continue to adapt how we work and how we go about our daily lives, both at home and for those of us who are in school at this time. As a staff team, we have been giving considerable thought to how we can support with learning opportunities at home and how we can best communicate that to you and also make this manageable. Your child's class teacher will continue to send home weekly newsletters which you will receive every Friday as usual.

Alongside this, we are working with colleagues across the Trust to create project weeks, each with a different theme. Next week, at Ilsham, we will be having a Science-themed week of home learning opportunities for you to do with your child/children. More information about this week and each new project week, will be available on our website each Friday. We will send you the link so you know exactly where to look. There is lots to look forward to over the next half term with an Arts' week, a DT week, a Writing/storytelling week and much, much more.

To supplement the project week activities, we will also be sharing with you a range of activities across the curriculum so that you can give your children additional structure if that is what works best for you and your family at this time. Again, this will be available this Friday on the website.

We understand the challenges that teaching your child from home can bring as many of you are also trying to work from home yourselves or are working full time outside of the family home. I would like to encourage you to not feel under pressure to complete everything that we set or under pressure to sit for hours every day teaching your children curriculum objectives. For now, we would like to give you the opportunity to engage in a number of creative learning opportunities, where your children can use prior knowledge and learning to happily and confidently complete tasks and learning at their own pace and this is where the project weeks will support. Here are some top tips that might support you with home schooling over the future weeks.

- Do what works for you as a family.
- Take time to do fun things together (cooking, gardening, painting)
- If you feel your child needs more structure, a daily timetable or a now/next/then board may support them.
- Try short bursts of learning activities with opportunities for play and talk in between.



Ilsham C of E Academy
Ilsham Road, Torquay,
Devon, TQ1 2JQ
T: 01803 292313 **E:** ilsham@lapsw.org
W: ilsham-lap.co.uk



TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

- Don't put too much pressure on yourselves.
- Read together as often as you can

I'll be touching base with you all again towards the end of this week with details about next week's home learning and the Science project week.

Take care of yourselves and best wishes.



Miss Ryan
Head of Academy