



“A Safe Branch from Which to Soar”

Dear Parents and Carers,

Home Learning in Blencathra Class

Thank you for completing the homelearning survey before we stopped for the half term break, the collation of these results has allowed us to review our homelearning procedures ready for the start of our next half term!

The completed survey has given us a good idea of how our children in Blencathra are working:

- Children on average are spending 4 hours a day on home learning.
- The majority of families believe that the amount of homelearning that the children receive is ‘about right’ with only one parent feeling it was too much. Parents liked the balance of structure and flexibility, particularly the ‘must’, ‘can’ and ‘should dos’.
- Maths, followed by English, Reading and Science seem to be the areas of learning that are working best for the children, which is reassuring to know!
- There was a real mix of online and real world activities that proved most popular, we will aim to continue providing a good balance of these!
- English and Phonics, followed by art and topic seem to be the areas of learning that are least successful. Having the same subjects in the most and least popular categories shows how difficult it is to make everyone happy. We do understand how challenging it is to get children doing written work at home. Having considered this, we are going to aim to use some of our ‘pastoral zoom meetings’ so children can share and inspire others with some writing they have completed and proud of.
- Juggling work and home learning has been difficult for many families and as more parents return to work we know this will get harder. While most families appreciate the choices, we do realise that it doesn’t work for everyone. In addition to the usual pdf we will also be sending out the weekly plan as an editable word document on Sunday evening so parents can sort through the ‘should do’ and ‘can do’ activities to just select what works for their circumstances (please continue to do the must do activities each day).

- Loneliness and motivating children have been challenging some. We hope that offering the zoom meetings will help with motivation and feeling connected to their class.
- We are working with individual families to solve specific individual concerns.

Thank you to the families who left additional comments it was useful to read that “having lots of options” was helpful to some families and how useful the feedback had been, for keeping children motivated. It was particularly good to read positive comments such as - “We have been very impressed with the interesting work that has been planned over the last half term,” and “Thank you for your help and for being there to support us as parents and friends,” it has helped to boost our morale, and approach the next half term with the reassurance that our plans and ideas meet the needs of the majority of our families.

Looking ahead to next half term, school will be reopening for some children of critical workers, and children in Nursery, Reception Year 1 and Year 6. (Information regarding reopening has been sent to these families directly). The work that will be completed in school will mirror the work that will be sent home for you to do together. We would like to share with you an overview of how home learning for your child will look for this next half term:

- On the website we will update our planning on a weekly basis and on a daily basis we will upload photographs and videos we receive. Please pop on to here and have a look at what there is.
<https://www.shap.cumbria.sch.uk/blencathra/>
- On Sunday we will send home an overview for the week ahead along with any attachments you may need. This will continue to be separated into the ‘must dos’, ‘should dos’ and ‘could dos’. Remembering the most important are the ‘must dos’.
- Your Child’s Phonics’ teacher will email over the Phonics work for the week. They will generally do this on Monday, ready for Tuesday.
- Mrs Capstick will continue to email over the videos of the story the Romans on the Rampage and if this is needed for a written activity, she will also include a photograph of the appropriate pages.
- Mrs Parkyn will send home a lesson video and any additional information for Thursday morning
- Mrs Turner will send home Guided Reading on a Thursday at 9.15

One of the many positives that came through in your homelearning survey, is that you and your children have benefitted from the close communication by email and telephone or video calls. Please do not hesitate to email us, we are available to communicate via email throughout the day. We are also more than happy to arrange mutually convenient telephone calls with you and / or your child, as requested. In response to requests from 2 families, we are hoping to offer a weekly ‘pastoral Zoom’ with groups of children from Blencathra class who have not returned to school. This will take place initially on Tuesday at 1:00pm with Mrs Capstick and/or a Friday morning at 10:30am with Mrs Parkyn. Please let us know by emailing vcapstick@shap.cumbria.sch.uk for Tuesday or sparkyn@shap.cumbria.sch.uk for Friday, that you would like to be included on the invite list for the zoom meetings, and we will confirm exact arrangements with you in due course. If your child is keen to Zoom but can’t manage those times let us know and we will look at adjusting the times in future weeks.

Many thanks!

Kind Regards,

Mrs Capstick and Mrs Parkyn

Blencathra Class Teachers

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