



“A Safe Branch from Which to Soar”

29 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Homelearning in Catbells 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 rough idea of how our children in Catbells are working. There are now 35 children in Catbells (16 reception and 19 nursery) Out of the 11 that responded to the survey, 6 were Reception age and 5 were Nursery children. From those that responded we concluded the following:

- Children on average are spending 2 hours on homelearning.
- The majority of families believe that the amount of homelearning that the children receive is ‘about right’, so that was good to know!
- Many areas of learning proved popular, particularly the ‘topic work’, phonics and maths – however we seem to have a motivated cohort who enjoyed many areas of learning!
- Popular activities included computer-based learning, the volcano project, handwriting, creative activities and those linked to The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We will bear these preferences in mind when we are planning next half term’s work!
- Religious Education was the area of learning that was least successful. Mrs Chappell who sets this work has been ‘severely rebuked’ and she is going to try harder to make it more engaging next half term – however any suggestions as to what your children may enjoy would be greatly appreciated!

Many families commented that it was tricky to engage the children in learning at home. Mrs Kelsall will contact those families separately to encourage motivation! Using virtual charts and video messages have worked well for some of the children already.

It was particularly good to read all the messages of appreciation and thanks, 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, or reminder of how homelearning for your child will look for this next half term:



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- On the website we will update the Catbells' class page weekly: <https://www.shap.cumbria.sch.uk/catbells/>
- On Mondays Mrs Kelsall will send home an overview for the week in the form of a 'Learning Poster'
- In addition to the learning poster, Reception will be sent the following: Mondays – writing task, Tuesdays – number task, Wednesdays - phonics, Thursdays - handwriting and Fri - Reading task
- In addition to the learning poster, Nursery will be sent weekly phonics tasks, differentiated for younger and older children

One of the many positives that came through in our homelearning surveys, 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. Mrs Kelsall will be teaching in school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and will be able to reply to you after 3pm those days or during the day on Monday. Mrs Chappell will be available to contact during working week day hours. We are also more than happy to arrange mutually convenient telephone or video calls with you and / or your child, as requested. In response to requests from two families, we are hoping to offer a weekly 'social zoom' with groups of children from Catbells class who have not returned to school. Please let us know by emailing head@shap.cumbria.sch.uk that you would like to be included on the invite list for zoom meetings, and we will confirm exact arrangements with you in due course.

Many thanks!

Kind Regards,

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