



1.4.2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

Firstly, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last couple of weeks surrounding the ongoing coronavirus crisis. It has been truly heart-warming to receive messages of support from our school community and for that, we are all very grateful.

We recognise that this has been an incredibly challenging time for every single one of us. We want you to know that as a school we are here for you throughout these difficult times. We want to work closely with you whilst your child is not at school, we do understand your anxieties and want to do everything we can to help you.

We remain “partially open” for those children whose parents are critical workers. We will remain in this status for as long as we are able and if there are changes in your circumstances then please email head@wallands.e-sussex.sch.uk to let us know. We are closely monitoring emails, phone calls and updates that we are receiving and we are communicating regularly with all families to ensure that all is well and to offer support if needed.

Staying connected

We have been thinking about how to increase communication with our school community and bring children and families together. We have created a Wallands School blog and this will provide an opportunity to launch whole school challenges and fun activities, share the children’s comments and celebrate some of activities going on at home. Follow this link to see a message from some of the staff and to start your first whole school challenge: <https://wallands.edublogs.org/>

What home learning is currently available for children?

On Friday 20th March all children received a learning pack, an exercise book and a reminder of passwords for on line accounts. If children were not at school that day, packs were delivered on Monday 23rd March. On the school website home page there is a link to [Year group pages for home learning during the school closure](#). On these pages you can find links to the learning packs and to additional activities on the home learning grids.

Each page includes a year group email address and teachers will reply to your emails in term time (however do be aware they are also supporting the school opening and have other jobs to complete in the day) so sometimes you may need to give them some time to reply! They will always aim to email you back by the end of the day.

Headteacher: Mrs Debbie Collis

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Large

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What will be in place for home learning after Easter?

From Friday 3rd April, there will be a new home learning grid, with a range of activities on each of the year group pages on the website <http://wallandsschool.org/>. Every week year groups will be updating the website with 3 English and 3 maths activities as well links to other sites that will support your child's learning.

Book swap – we will be leaving some boxes containing a range of books in the covered area by the school reception on Monday 20th April and every Monday following. If you are passing on your daily walk and would like to swap your child's book, please do.

Supporting your child/ren

We are sure you have already found a successful way of working with your child; however these are some tips which you might find helpful. It may be useful to put a timetable in place for the day. Limiting screen time and having this around 2.30pm when children are getting tired, can help to engage and motivate them. On each of the year group pages there are links to on line programmes that can support children's learning. Setting up a 'work space' in the house will help children know when they will sit to work, and when it is playtime. Having set playtimes, lunchtimes, snack times and times when you get out for a walk/play are necessary for your child's learning. Getting them outside for a walk/play at least once a day will really support their concentration.

We are very aware that parents will have other commitments including; working from home at the same time as supporting their child, having younger and/or older siblings in the house to look after, looking after vulnerable adults. So what is included in the learning packs and on the web site, are for you to take as much away from as you wish. Please do not feel you have to complete all of the learning ideas we have sent home or provided. You may also like to share a book and talk about it, bake and cook together, paint pictures, create and make, play board games, do science experiments, travel the world via Google Maps, go on virtual tours of museums, art galleries and zoos, look at old photos and tell stories about family members, some of whom your children have never met or write letters to those you cannot visit at the moment.

We are thinking of you all and missing the children. We will do our best to keep in touch with you all and provide the children with as much support as possible to further their learning. Remember you are not in this alone! Stay positive and we will see you soon,

Debbie Collis and the Wallands team

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