

Friday 1st May

Message from Mrs Marshall



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you and your families are all keeping well and that the children enjoyed a very unusual Easter break! This week your child should have completed 'Home learning' pack 4 moving onto pack 5 next week.

In addition to next week, to celebrate VE day on 8th May, some children might like to enter this competition: <https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/dan-snows-ve-day-challenge/>

Learning at home is tricky and new for everyone! Our key message to you is, don't panic and worry that you are not doing enough or the right thing. You have amazing children and they have amazing and supportive parents! Everyone will have highs and lows and we are all on a steep learning curve. Every family situation is different – there is no right way of doing learning at home.

There will be a lot of challenges along the way and you have probably met lots of them already including: getting used to new and very different routines, shopping taking longer, working from home accompanied by your children and spending time online keeping in touch and sorting out problems. Added to this, you are contending with learning from home with a lack of resources and time!

Below are some tips and ideas that may help. Not all will be relevant for you and it is not a list of things that you must do!

1. A couple of home learning sessions in the morning (with breaks) may be enough. This will then leave the afternoon for play, a walk, reading, iPad or TV time or carrying on with an independent project that your child is eager to work on.
2. Repeating activities within your routine is good for memory and helping your child retain new learning; so, don't think you have to move on quickly and complete everything every week.
3. When you choose the activity from the weekly plan, be sure that you know what you want your child to achieve from it. You may

decide you want to make it shorter or adapt the idea to support your own child in the time you have and with the resources that you have at home.

4. Keep learning sessions short. 15 to 20 minutes learning 1 to 1 is very intense for young children and once you sense them switching off, have a break or change what you are doing. Reading a book or a story together.
5. A daily read together is important, but again do not worry if it doesn't happen every day. Look back over a week and celebrate what you have read together and what your child has read independently. There are lots of stories online and children's drama series and films are stories too!
6. Don't forget to play games e.g. board games, card games, garden games. Give your child plenty of games to play and opportunities to use their imagination on their own during the day. This is all part of learning and watching them and seeing where their imaginations take them, can help you use their interests to spark learning and conversations.

And if all that doesn't keep your child busy, listed below are some fantastic websites which have daily lessons for all year groups and subjects

Government resources for all year groups:

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/>

BBC Bitesize can be accessed here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Wednesday Word: www.wednesdayword.org

We hope that some of the information within this email has been useful and/ or reassuring. However, we would like to stress that they are only suggestions and not meant to overload you.

Take care and best wishes

Mrs Marshall



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Part of The Romero Catholic Academy