

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your loved ones are well.

As we enter the second week of the summer term, I am writing to share some tips in response to some communication from parents.

Whilst most parents have been overwhelmingly positive about the homeschooling packs, I am aware that the implementation may have raised some challenges. Teaching is not a straightforward activity and trying to homeschool your children, whilst maintaining working from home and the feeling that you have done enough, can be daunting for many, even for people who work in education!

There are some important tips that will help:

Firstly, while a routine is helpful, as with any activity, there are times when it is important to know when enough is enough. Children sometimes need a change of activity, which could indicate a gap in prior learning or just simply the wrong frame of mind at that time. At school, we keep a flexible approach and knowing when to stop is an important skill. The following [link](#) might help with daily routines.

The second tip is to prioritise, while it is important to keep up with core skills of English and Maths, the activities do not all need to be done at once. Please spread the learning out over the week. Staff have been cautious and are setting additional tasks on Google Classroom. These may be connected to your child/ren's topic so please feel free to substitute the project work online for the topic work on the Classroom. Also, there may be more work than your child can successfully achieve in a week, however, please don't worry, just work through it at your own pace and choose the activities that your child/ren will enjoy the most. It doesn't all need to be completed, it is there if you need it.

Another query has been about phonics. The teaching of phonics has changed significantly over the years and I appreciate that it can be tricky to make the pure sounds required.

The following [Read Write Inc website](#) might be a useful guide. Within the website, there is a useful link to their youtube channel which may help with some of the phonics pronunciation.

Finally, as time continues apart, we are looking at different ways in which to keep in contact with classes. Google has made some changes to its software which may enable this to happen and over the next week, we will be trialling to see if it is practical.

Warm regards,

Mr Gibson