

Templemoor Infant and Nursery School



A Parent/Carer Guide to Home Learning

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all missing the children and our school normality incredibly right now but know that, however hard this feels at the moment, it is the right thing to keep everyone safe and we sincerely hope you are all well and looking after yourselves.

We have spent some time thinking about the current situation, and know that for many, there will be feelings of anxiety and pressure, and feeling overwhelmed by everything that is happening – we certainly sympathise. We also know that this will be exacerbated by worries about school work being sent home to you and how on earth you manage fitting in your own jobs whilst taking on the responsibility of educating your children.

Home learning is certainly very tricky. The children are not used to learning at home and some will find it a challenge to settle. Please remember you are **not** being asked to home school your little ones as this is very different. You are their parent- not their teacher. We are acutely aware that learning at home is not the same as learning at school. The conditions and structures for learning are very different to that of our classrooms. Therefore, we thank you for supporting the work that we are sending home and helping your child to access resources.

We know that whatever practise you support your children with at home will help them when they return to school. We want to reassure you that we will support the transition back into school once the government announces our return. As always the children's personal, social and emotional development is at the forefront of our ethos and thinking and this situation will be no different.

We hope that the information set out in this guide is both helpful and reassuring.

With very best wishes,

Mr Hodgson and the Templemoor Team

WEEKLY HOME LEARNING TASKS

Each week, your child's class teacher produces home learning tasks which give you a selection of phonics, reading, writing, mathematics and topic activities. In Nursery and Reception these tasks are presented on a home learning overview sheet where the activities have been designed to allow you to do a little bit each day. In Year 1 and Year 2 we have broken up the tasks into days. These are **suggested** tasks. We are very mindful that parents are also working from home and want to give you the flexibility to complete the tasks in whichever way works best for you. You may decide to complete the tasks over a 7 day week and not the 5 days that mirror the school day if you feel that your child would work better like this. Home learning tasks will be available on a Sunday, to give you time to have a look at the types of tasks that are being set and to help you to think about how you might organise this in the week ahead.

TYPICAL TIMETABLE/ ROUTINE

Please do not feel that children should be learning at home for 6 hours a day! This is not school! Home learning works differently as it is generally 1:1, so it is more intensive. Children's concentration levels are also very age dependent. Short bursts of learning throughout the day with regular 'play' breaks built in is ideal. So make a routine that works for you and your family. We completely appreciate that this will look different for everyone depending on your own commitments, number of children, ages, needs, interests, technology available etc. so it is a matter of creating the day that works for you. It won't be the same as the next families, and that is absolutely fine.

If you can, please do have a look at the home learning tasks. Pick and choose what you can and can't do and find a routine that works for you. As a bare minimum, if it all gets too much and you need a 'home learning task break', then try to aim for the following;

- ✓ Physical exercise every day. Active time includes jumping on a trampoline, joining in with Joe Wicks each morning, Cosmic Yoga and any cycle rides or walks you might do as a family.
- ✓ Lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better (Lego, playdough, tidying up small toys is great for fine motor skills).
- ✓ Try to do a bit of reading and phonics if you can (hearing your child read, reading independent or reading to them or via an audiobook etc.). Please see the separate guide for phonics and reading.
- ✓ Practical hands on maths. Be that via cooking, maths outside or some maths games, physical or digital.

WELLBEING

It is crucial to reiterate that we have all undergone huge changes during the past few weeks and this will take some adjustment for everyone. Nothing is more important

than your child's emotional wellbeing. Spending time together playing games, daily exercise as a family, reading favourite stories, making things, building dens and playing in the garden - for those fortunate enough to have one – are all valuable activities and should be a key part of any home learning timetable. Some children will be able to complete all the home learning set, while you may feel that your child is only capable of completing some of the activities and you will know when your child is anxious or stressed by tasks. Again, create home learning that works for you and your child. Research has shown that the 'feel of the day' is often more important than what we actually achieve and that children will remember more about how the time felt than what they have learnt. So it really doesn't matter if your child doesn't achieve any of the 'learning tasks' set that day as long as it has been a happy household.

LIFE SKILLS AND LEARNING THAT COMES FROM YOUR CHILD'S INTERESTS

Don't forget all the extra learning your children are receiving at the moment in various life skills. We have been given extra time with children at home so if there are life skills you're focussing on, like using cutlery, self-hygiene (teeth cleaning, showering themselves, hair brushing etc), watering flowers in the garden, learning to ride a bike etc., then be proud of the progress your children make. If you can make any learning activities hands on and fit in with your daily tasks so it's easier for you, we absolutely encourage that. If you're baking with your children and they want to write a recipe or a list of ingredients instead of the set writing task for that week then brilliant, go with what is motivating them.

A PURPOSE FOR LEARNING

We are very aware that children like to do work to share. They are motivated by purposeful tasks that they will get feedback on. With that in mind we do encourage you to share examples of their work with teachers via year group email accounts. We will check emails at different points in the school day and really look forward to seeing children's learning so do not worry about oversharing! Please also share other work too, such as if your child has completed a 'wow' moment, such as learning to ride their bike! We definitely want to share in your great family news!

Year group email addresses are:

Nursery	homelearningN@templemoor.trafford.sch.uk
Reception	homelearningR@templemoor.trafford.sch.uk
Year 1	homelearningY1@templemoor.trafford.sch.uk
Year 2	homelearningY2@templemoor.trafford.sch.uk

General (for passwords etc)	homelearning@templemoor.trafford.sch.uk
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HOME LEARNING PAGE

As you know, the home learning page on our school website is updated and refreshed weekly. Here, we not only set out the suggested home learning tasks for the week, but we also signpost you to some other home learning websites that may be of interest. It is worth investing some time in exploring these so you know what is out there to support you and your child. There is a wealth of information on the internet in addition to the information on our pages, almost so much it can feel overwhelming, so do choose carefully and take small steps.

AND FINALLY...

We want to reassure you that we are all here for you every step of the way. We are only ever an email or phone call away should you have any problem or need anything. Equally, if your child is struggling or would appreciate a call from a friendly voice, we are absolutely here for that too. Just email our admin address and we will be more than happy to help.

Please remember, children may react to all this by changing their behaviours and showing behaviours you have never seen from them before. This might be difficult for you and your family but it is natural and is to be expected. Your child just needs these feelings to be acknowledged and to be reassured that you understand that life is just that bit less predictable at the moment. Try not to argue and fall out about any of the learning ideas we send home. If you do need support please remember that we are there for you.

We want to reduce stress and anxiety as much as possible for our Templemoor community. We hope that the information set out in this guide is both helpful and reassuring. The most important thing is that you and your children are happy and safe. You are doing a fantastic job and we are incredibly grateful to you for taking on the mantle of being your child's primary educator at this time. Remember though that parents have always been children's primary educators. You know your children best and you continue to make informed choices about how to support their health and learning.

Please try to enjoy this opportunity and make it what you want to make it. We miss you all and we really hope to see you all again very soon.

Keep well, stay safe and keep smiling.

With very best wishes,

Mr Hodgson and the Templemoor Team