William Penn School
'Living, Laughing and Learning Together'

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How to Support Home Learning

Dear Parents

We hope that you and your families are well and managing to find some sort of routine in these unusual times. As you know, William Penn is closed but the staff are working hard from their homes or potentially other schools to maintain provision for all our pupils. Whilst there is no 'right' way to support your child's home learning, the guidance below will hopefully help to establish the most productive way for your family to carry on learning together.

Be realistic about what you can do

- **You're not expected to become teachers** and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Simply **providing your children with some structure** at home will help them to adapt. Use the tips below to help you make this work for your household
- **Experiment** at first, then **take stock.** What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too
- **Share the load if there are 2 parents at home.** Split the day into 2-3 hour slots and take turns so you can do your own work
- **Take care of your own health and wellbeing.** This will be new for your entire household, so give it time to settle.

Keep to a timetable wherever possible

- **Create and stick to a routine** if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!
- **Involve your children in setting the timetable** where possible. It's a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership
- **Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible.** If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible
- If you have more than 1 child at home, **consider combining their timetables**. For example, they might exercise and do maths together – see what works for your household
- **Designate a working space if possible**, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over
- **Stick the timetable up on the wall** so everyone knows what they should be doing

when, and tick activities off throughout the day
- **Distinguish between weekdays and weekends**, to separate school life and home life

Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

- **Start each morning with a** PE lesson at 9am with Joe Wicks or another digital provider
- If you have a **garden, use it regularly**. If you don't, try to get out **once a day** as permitted by the government (households can be together outdoors but 2 metres apart from others)
- Get your children to **write in a diary what they did each day** – this can be a clear sign that the 'school' day has ended

Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day

- Where you have more freedom in the timetable, **make time for other activities**. Add some creative time or watch a dance video eg from Go Noodle to get the heart-rate going
- Get your children to **write postcards** to their grandparents or to pen pals
- Ask **grandparents to listen to your children read** on FaceTime (or ask grandparents to read to younger children)
- **Give them chores** to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home
- Ask them to **help you cook** and bake
- Accept that **they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone** – that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits

Examples of home-learning timetables

- Horniman Primary School in Lewisham created this timetable for its parents
- Five Minute Mum has a timetable including lots of activities for younger children

Yours sincerely
Stephen Kear

Headteacher