



Rathfern News

Where everyone learns to learn

Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Mums, Dads, Carers, staff, governors, friends & colleagues

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

The following came through on my daily briefing from the headteachers union at the start of this week: As Vladimir Lenin said, " *There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.*"

This is one of those weeks.

I'm sure that you too, were moved by the scenes last night of millions of people standing together to show our appreciation for all those who work in the NHS and frontline services. We are seeing something now which we have never seen - the need to help each other- to show solidarity and compassion for one another.

It is a challenging time we are living in, and I want to reassure you that we are here as a school community to help and support you in any way we can.

On our school website there is a page dedicated for all information relating to the Coronavirus and school closure updates in order to try and ensure that you have access to everything in one place. We will continue to add to it in the coming weeks too.

Class teachers are making weekly phone calls to each and every child. I have heard from many members of staff that your children are responding well to their new way of learning, and I want to thank you for all you are doing to support them in this.

I also realise that there may be times when learning will be difficult and we will respond and support to help keep the children on track with their learning.

We are looking to recognise student effort and achievement whilst working remotely.

If you have a good news story for the newsletter please email admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk

Currently, you can access learning and other materials on the school website:

<http://www.rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk>

Click on Remote Learning and Year group pages to find updates.

We will be uploading Easter home learning next Friday 3rd April - please look out for this.

We are working on a more suitable virtual learning platform (Google Classroom) that we intend to launch in time for the start of the Summer term (17th/20th April). We aim to better support you and your child whilst they learn from home. We will release details of this in the next few weeks.

If you have not yet received a home learning pack then please email admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk.

In a week which has had such an enormous impact on all our lives, our thoughts are for those affected by this pandemic, our frontline staff and our Rathfern family.

Thank you for your continued support.

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10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feedback progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.

