Home Learning Weekly Plan

Hopefully, this is quite self-explanatory in its content.

* English – Should include 1 reading and 1 writing opportunity (reading should also be promoted elsewhere wherever possible)
* Maths – Try to include some fluency and a real-life / reasoning element.
* Science – I’d be tempted to stick with something hands-on/ investigation based.
* Our World – This should incorporate a selection or rotation of History, Geography, RE, Spanish activities each week.
* Time to Move – 1 / 2 PE based activities.
* Let’s Get Creative – This should incorporate a selection or rotation of Art, DT, Music activities each week.
* Value of the Week – Wk 1 – Kindness, Wk 2 – Independence, Wk 3 – Pride, Wk 4 – Respect

(I refuse to count any higher!)

When planning your activities, please just be aware of a couple of things:

* We are not expecting our parents to be home-schooling their children and we really need to avoid using this term. As Trish pointed out in her letter to parents last week, home-schooling is a choice that parents can make to educate their children at home – there’s been no choice here. Some of our parents are keyworkers, many have more than one child at home, lots are trying to work from home, some are just very anxious about the situation they’ve found themselves in and now have money worries to contend with as well. In short, we are providing activities which our children can engage in at home. Many of our parents are very keen to do the best they can in terms of helping their child but we are not holding anyone to account for activities that are / are not completed. Rather than over-facing parents (and children) with a school-week’s-worth of work, I think it’s best to provide a reasonable amount of written activity (see Y3 example) but provide links to websites etc for further home learning opportunities in case it’s wanted. Also, we need to be reminding children to record written work in their books so that parents aren’t having to print lots of worksheets.
* That being said, we obviously want to encourage our children to carry on learning at home. With this in mind, we need to be making sure that activities are fun and engaging, and that, where possible, we give some choice of activities and that we reward with dojos – 1 for each activity completed.
* With regards to the learning underpinning the chosen activities, I think it makes sense to carry on with projects in History and Science etc and therefore the children will be discovering new knowledge and skills. However, in English and maths, unless the concepts to be covered are fairly simple, I would stick with revision and consolidation of concepts that have already been covered in school. We shouldn’t be expecting our parents to teach long division from scratch!

Useful resources

If you look on the home learning tab of our website (Our School – scroll to the bottom of the menu), most of the websites that we frequently use are there – e.g. MathsWhizz, Reading Plus, Espresso, Twinkl etc. I’d also recommend looking at the Gareth Metcalfe resources that are saved on the server (curriculum resources – maths) and Deepening Understanding which everyone already has their own login for - they’ve now produced weekly home learning booklets. White Rose have also now produced their own home learning weekly packs as have Hamilton trust (the links for these can be found on the document from Lyndsey). We also have a Whizz Pop Bang subscription that might help with science too (you should have your own log in for this). If any subject leaders want to promote any other websites, please do.

Whole school next steps

Most of these are based on the good ideas that I’ve seen on your Dojo class stories but I now think they’re worth rolling out as a whole school approach.

* Everyone to complete a weekly plan for home learning and share this on their class story. To make sure we hit all parents, I’ve asked Claire Fallon to also put this information and any related documents in a folder on the school website (Y4 have done this and it looks great). I’ll also text parents to make sure they know to look on the website every Monday or get logged on to Dojo.
* To keep the week’s learning at the front of people’s minds, Eva and Nicola, also posted their link to the website as an upcoming event. Have a look on their page if you’re not sure what I mean. To do this you just need to click on the box where you would normally post, click event, set your dates and click on all times. This will keep the event visible for the week.
* We need to continue to use our ClassDojo class stories to promote learning, share fun ideas, good websites etc. If we don’t post regularly, parents and children will inevitably get bored and not only will the motivation to learn wane, I worry that we’ll also lose touch with our children. With this in mind, please can we make sure that every year group has a good morning post every day that gives a brief idea of what’s coming up for the day. This could be as simple as a reminder of some of the activities the children have been set, the promise of a challenge coming up later, a question, a joke…
* In the interests of not feeling like you need to be ‘marking’ work – perhaps promise to post answer sheets (where appropriate) every Friday morning – or earlier but for parents’ eyes only. Remind children that evidence of best efforts earns dojos so that you still get to see evidence of completed work.
* On a final note (see, I told you, you’d deserve chocolate by the end of this), do feel free to post nice Easter crafts etc ready for next week but remember that we’re not setting any learning tasks / activities over the Easter holidays and we are switching off from Dojo until we return.