



Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for creating routines, timetables, rewards and resources to make the best of home learning. I know that this is far from ideal and many of you have truly humbled me this week as you balance home education alongside working commitments, other children, other relatives and all set against your own anxieties about the national crisis that we face. You have been proactive throughout this week and my colleagues are lucky to work with such committed partners.

Thank you for caring about the amount of work that is being completed at home. I would like to reassure you that what you are doing is enough. It doesn't matter if you get a full day of activities done, maths work completed and an essay written up before lunch or whether you take a day to recalibrate, talk about how you are feeling and sit outside in the sun. You are raising children and doing your best at a time when they are trying to process what is happening outside. If there are days when you just feel like you need to take the pressure off, have a cup of tea together and start the weekend a bit earlier than usual then, in my opinion, it makes sense to do that.

Thank you for emailing kind words of support and encouragement to our staff team but also for asking what to do if home education hasn't started as well as you might have hoped. I wanted to share a few thoughts that I hope might be helpful particularly as this has been a theme of some questions (take with a pinch of salt). My experience of education is that the positive moments will come but they don't always come quickly. I have found that it can be powerful if you can seize upon small steps of progress, creativity or hard work as an opportunity for recognition and praise. By having a focus on the positive you can nurture these positives until they grow. Those small steps eventually become big strides, and this takes time. Please help us celebrate them with you by updating us via email to khstars@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk

It can be worth keeping in mind that achievement comes in different forms; comparison is not always helpful. As all children are different, it is probably not useful to compare them because they will all have to navigate changing circumstances and make peace with them in their own way. I feel that the strength we have all shown in the last two weeks has been rooted in the idea of community and mutual support. I remain committed to helping you so that your children continue to learn at home, and my colleagues will continue to communicate with you to try to help as best we can. I would like to thank you for entering this spirit of collaboration which has been a real feature of the first week of closure.

Finally, I would also like to say a personal thank you for the spirited community response that you have shown. The last two weeks have been challenging in so many ways but throughout it all, you have shown patience, understanding and gratitude whilst I have attempted to navigate our school into uncharted waters and make decisions whilst holding onto our values and principles. I hope that this is a small opportunity for me to reciprocate the same encouragement that you have shown me and more importantly, that

you give your children. Whenever we come out of all of this, I will have learnt more about the hard working and thoughtful community that I serve and for that I am very grateful.

Free School Meals

The Government has released details of the national voucher scheme. After Easter (starting week beginning 20th April), all families eligible will receive £15.00 each week per child for spending on food. You will receive more details about this soon. We will still issue a voucher on Friday for £23.00 per child as we had already planned to use the system we have set up. We will then issue a further voucher for £23.00 per child on Monday 13th April to support families over the Easter period. Please contact, fsm@tgacademy.org.uk, if you have any concerns about this.

As promised a list of possible things to do:

Cooking competition

Within your household have a cooking competition. Find a new recipe and enjoy cooking this with someone in your family. Take it in turns and judge each other's cooking! Cooking something new is potentially a great maths lesson as this involves weights, measures, timings and temperatures.

Write down a list of things to do when this is over

Write a list individually then discuss and compile into a long family list. Think of trips, occasions, events or simple things to look forward to. Pin this up somewhere for all to see. Just think, one day you will be able to do these and cross them off.

Drawing competition

Everyone has 15 minutes to draw something. This could be the same object or something more personal like the family pet. This could be a real giggle depending on the drawing talent in your family. Alternatively, the best one could be framed particularly if it is something sentimental to all!

Make your own Play dough

You will need:

- 8 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tbsp table salt
- 60ml warm water
- food colouring
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil

Method

1. Mix the flour and salt in a large bowl. In a separate bowl mix together the water, a few drops of food colouring and the oil.
2. Pour the coloured water into the flour mix and bring together with a spoon.



3. Dust a work surface with a little flour and turn out the dough. Knead together for a few minutes to form a smooth, pliable dough. If you want a more intense colour you can work in a few extra drops of food colouring.
4. Store in a plastic sandwich bag (squeeze out the air) in the fridge to keep it fresh.

Easter cards

Make your own cards and send them to relatives, family friends or neighbours.



Write a letter

Write a letter on rainbow paper to relatives, family friends or neighbours.

The Blue Peter Challenge

Students could try to earn their blue peter badges.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

Design & Technology

We have put some competitions on TEAMS for the students to consider. We have attached these to this email/letter.

<https://www.ideaconnection.com/challenges/>

<https://www.shell.co.uk/sustainability/society/supporting-stem/bright-ideas-challenge.html#vanity-aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2h1bGwuY28udWsvZW5lcmd5LWZC1pbm5vdmF0aW9uL21ha2UtdGhlLWZ1dHVyZS9zY2hvb2xzL2JyaWdodC1pZGVhcy1jaGFsbGVuZ2UuaHRtbA=true&iframe=L2ZvcmlzL2JyaWdodF9pZGVhc19jaGFsbGVuZ2VfcmlzL2VnaXN0cmF0aW9uXzlwMTg>

Drawing Tutorials

There are enough for one a day over the Easter period.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUmGlca4HGqZKHIBZtL_zHjh2HBoBNerA&fbclid=IwAR3WIRoFfWEPGm-aOMnF-0lqnNI38PqTvWzzpytee3nlyszd8FxG1RmvNcQ

Desert Island Choices

The BBC Radio 4 programme Desert Island Discs invites castaways to choose eight pieces of music, a book (in addition to the Bible – or a religious text appropriate to that person's beliefs – and the Complete Works of Shakespeare) and a luxury item that they would take to an imaginary desert island, where they will be marooned indefinitely. The rules state that the chosen luxury item must NOT be anything animate (e.g. a sister or a pet) or indeed anything that enables the castaway to escape from the island, for instance a radio set, sailing yacht or aeroplane.

1. List your 8 favourite songs; perhaps find a YouTube link to the song so others can listen to and appreciate it too and give a reason why the song is so special to you.
2. What would your book be? Why?
3. And your luxury item? Why?
4. Post your Desert Island choices on KHStars@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk
5. Make sure your family shares their choices with you, too!

If you've struggled for inspiration or enjoyed today's session, listen to Daniel Radcliffe's choices.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000gc48>

Yours faithfully

Darren Turner

Executive Principal