

24 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As mentioned in the letter from Mr Hemmings dated Friday 20 March, we will be setting all work on SMHW. This will run and follow your child, or children's, normal school timetable. We would therefore recommend that they continue to follow the normal school day, including taking breaks at the usual times and moving around between lesson times.

Staff will be setting work for each lesson that we have with your child. Some tasks might only take one lesson, whilst other tasks may take slightly longer. You and your child can see how long it should take based on the information and deadline on SMHW. Once your child has completed their work they need to email it to the class teacher who set them the work. Staff will be chasing up students who do not complete the work set and contacting you if necessary for your support in getting them to complete the work.

For families with access to the internet and a device to complete set work

Please can we ask that once your child has completed the work, that they email it back to their class teacher so that they can mark it and provide feedback either by email or SMHW.

For families with no internet access, but the use of a smart phone to use SMHW

In our survey last week, the vast majority of our students have indicated that they have access to a smart phone. If this is your only access to the internet then we would ask that your child monitors work set on the SMHW app, completes the work and then emails a photograph of their work to their class teacher so that they can mark it and provide feedback either by email or SMHW.

For families with no internet access or a smart phone

We are aware that some of you don't have any access to the internet or a smart phone and as a result we are preparing for work to be sent home. Whilst this will be updated and sent home as often as possible this is more of a challenge now that we are not on site. I would suggest that you could also guide your child to some directed reading time, ask them to write a journal of the current events, practice their times tables or design a fitness session that they can complete in a small space to maintain health and fitness. Once your child has completed the work, please can you post it back to us at school at the earliest opportunity. Please stay in contact with the school office so that we can continue to collect and send out work to you.

We feel that it is important to stress that we fully recognise that, as parents, you are not trained teachers, nor do we expect you to be able to answer every question that your child might have. We are working hard to support you in setting up tasks that will allow your child to continue to learn during these difficult times. When questions arise, we will be available on email to support your child with their learning and will aim to reply as quickly as possible. It is

crucial to try to maintain as much structure and normality as possible and we thank you for all of your efforts in supporting your child's learning.

In addition, I have included an attachment that lists a wide range of websites to support learning for KS2, KS3 and KS4. This document contains a wide range of engaging educational opportunities and some that are just good family fun in order to keep spirits high. Please be aware that some of these links have already been updated and as a result you might need to search for the updated link. Also, some are taken from American sites. We hope that you find them useful and enjoyable.

For those of you who are already on SMHW with a parent login, you might be aware of the checklist and tips for students that was posted on SMHW. We highly recommend that this as it contains some really useful information for supporting home learning. If you are not currently on SMHW, I would highly recommend that you set yourself up with an account. It links directly to your child/children's account so that you can keep up with what is being set. If you have any questions during this time, please don't hesitate to contact your class teacher by school email.

We have set up a special email address to deal with the volume of frequently asked questions and are looking at ways of posting helpful videos to support you and your child. Therefore, if you have any issues regarding logging on to SMHW, email other resources, please can I direct you to [itservices@oakmoor.hants.sch.uk](mailto:itservices@oakmoor.hants.sch.uk)

We wish you good health. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A.Beere  
Assistant Headteacher



## Checklist and Top Tips for Successful Home Learning

### Checklist

- ✓ workbooks organised
- ✓ work space ready -- do you have all your equipment?
- ✓ timetable ready to follow
- ✓ study playlists ready to go

### Tips for working from home

- Get dressed before you sit down to work. Any little things that make Monday - Friday a 'normal' school day will help you stay focused.
- Plan to follow your timetable as normal, completing work for each subject for 50mins at the right time of day -- breaks as usual, too. If you want, shift it back to 9.50-3.45.
- Avoid having your phone on or within reach during your 'lesson' times -- if you need to use your phone to access SMHW or other resources, then have notifications switched off. You will find yourself much more productive! If you struggle, search for 'Pomodoro Timer' apps -- personally, I can't work from home without Bear Focus Timer.
- At the end of your working day, give yourself a break, and check in with the rest of the household to see how their day has been --- is there anything you can do to help them out?

### Year 11 Portfolio

- Work out what your best pieces of work are from what you have -- this might be mock exams, or practice essays, coursework, 'green pen' feedback where you showed improvement. Your teachers might have a few pieces as well and will take care of these.
- We will let you know next week if there are any new pieces you could create to add to your portfolio.
- Continue to work through your normal timetable in order to prepare yourself fully for the future!

### Other tips for managing time out of school

- Be helpful: do your bit to keep your home in good order, and, if you don't already have one, offer to set up a rota for household chores and meals. Maybe it's time to put some of those food tech lessons into practice?
- If tensions arise, take a breath and remember that everyone in the household is on the same team.
- Stay in touch with friends and family -- call them, have video calls, and for friends, maybe schedule time to work together on a particular subject and do this via Skype or FaceTime. Send letters or postcards if you have stamps -- everyone loves receiving something in the post!
- Stay hydrated and don't forget to move around between lessons. Drinking plenty of water and moving around will help you to concentrate on your learning.
- Stay active -- get out in the fresh air and enjoy the sunshine (just stay 2m apart from others); tune in weekdays at 9:00am to Joe Wicks' daily PE lesson on YouTube; do some yoga or aerobics in the living room... lots of home workouts for young people on YouTube and more to follow from the PE department on this.
- Keep a journal or a scrapbook -- not only does journaling help to unwind a busy mind, but you will want a record of this time when you're older.

