27th September 2009

Dear Parents,

I hope the children are as excited as I am to start work on Fronter – I have reviewed all of the pages set up by the teachers and am very happy with the results. Work on these interactive pages will be ongoing throughout the week. Please do not hesitate to contact us re any technical glitches you encounter and we will endeavour to resolve them as soon as possible.

Some of the Fronter content, particularly in Key Stage 1, relates to the work contained in the packs which are available for collection on Monday's and Wednesday's between 9am -12noon. To gain the full benefit of the work supplied this week please try to ensure that you arrange collection of the work packs.

We appreciate that this is a challenging set of circumstances. Please find attached some guidance you may find useful to making learning at home a positive experience.

Yours sincerely,

Gerard Flynn
Headteacher

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Fun Learning from Home

Tips for Learning from Home

- **Set a routine**

Draw up a simple timetable with short slots for doing school work. For younger children, plan 15 to 20 minute slots for work and for older children 20-30 minute slots depending on the nature of the work. Plan 10 to 15 minute breaks for a snack or for some fun physical activity.

Example Daily Timetable for School at Home

8.00-8.20	**8.20-8.40**	8.40-9.00	9.00-9.20	9.20-9.40	9.40-10.00	10.00-10.20	10.20-11.00
Maths Activity	Spelling & Computer activity	Snack & Play	Literacy Activity	Read to adult	Run about & a computer game	Science, History or PHSE Activity	Art/Handicraft/ Cooking Activity

- **Involve your child in setting his/her timetable, draw it out and have a visual time table stuck on the fridge or at the child's work place. This helps them to feel they are in charge of their learning.**
- **Always start the day with a healthy, energizing breakfast and make sure drinking water is within reach throughout the morning.**
- **Create a quiet place for individual school work free from distractions.**
- **Try to plan group activities which will involve siblings e.g. cooking or art activities.**
- **Keep the learning day short; the key is short sessions but keeping a regular and predictable routine.**
- **Distribute work projects over the week but keep regular routines e.g. daily mental maths, reading and spelling.**
- **Provide incentives for completing tasks e.g. have a sticker chart for work completed or allow privilges as a reward for effort made and work completed e.g. computer/TV/game time/fun activities.**
- **Be available to help but, encourage independence.**
- **Set an example; when your child is writing or doing a numeracy activity, show them that you are working too.**
- **Encourage the child to call a friend to find out how their work is going, this will help your child to feel he/she is part of the school community who are have school at home this week.**
- **Allow short movement breaks: a little stretch, a walk to the bathroom, a quick drink, will help to keep the various sensory systems in a state of alert. You will know when these interludes become an avoidance or a way to stay distracted!**