

James Elliman Academy

5th February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Thank you to all of you who are really working hard with the remote education on Google Classroom. The level of engagement is increasing daily and teachers are really pleased with the work that is being submitted. This week teachers have loved seeing your children via the Google Meet. If you haven't logged into a Google Meet yet then please do so. It is great fun and a great opportunity for teachers and children to reconnect.

Thank you for contacting us if you are having trouble uploading work. We are more than happy to help with this. Just call the school, or communicate via the Google Classroom email or stream, if you are having any trouble.

Commonly asked question - *We have many people using a limited number of devices, and we are working from home ourselves. We are struggling to keep up with the work. What do you suggest we do?*

Your child is less likely to fall behind in their learning if they are engaging in their core learning every day. As a useful indicator, we suggest that your child tries to complete at least 12 pieces of work a week, with a majority of pieces covering reading, writing and maths. You can be flexible with how you achieve this across the week. We know each family's circumstances are different.

We are also seeing a lot of children enjoying the quiz tasks which is fantastic! Keep it up but at the same time remember to try the other learning tasks too. Your teachers are spending a lot of time planning exciting tasks so that you don't fall behind. Have a look and give them a go!

If you have many people using a limited number of technology in your home each day, we understand that that this can be a challenge! Here are some suggestions which might help your child continue to learn when others are having screen time. This may also reduce your anxieties that when they are not on the Google Classroom they are not learning.

Time off line is a great time for your child to practice key skills and revise some key facts. It is great for giving them a break from learning online and also provides an opportunity for them to write with a paper and pen! Remember, learning is fun and many children are learning new skills all the time, even when they are not at school!

We hope you find these suggestions useful. Please share any ideas that you have to with your community. We are all in this together and we can all help each other.

Kind regards,



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Top Tips for making the most of your day: Managing multiple users on devices throughout the day.

1. **Practice times tables** – ask your child to call them out aloud, write them down on paper, make a times table poster to help them with their work later, or display in their room.
2. **Practise spellings** – next time you are on the computer ask your child to write down their spellings so that they can practise writing them when they are off line. You may have noticed some spellings that they are repeatedly getting wrong in their work.
3. **Read** a book, magazine, newspaper, a leaflet that has come through the door. Can they read to a pre-school sibling or a teddy, pet or doll? Can younger children use their phonics to work out new words? Can older children use their comprehension skills to answer questions that you may ask them (when you are free of course!)
4. **Practise counting** in 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s using pasta shapes, coins, plastic toy money, beads, buttons. Older children can practise counting according to their age, 100s, 1000s, negative numbers.
5. **Make a shop** with some items around your home and get them to practice making totals, adding the cost of items (of course this would be when you are available, and will not be suitable for everyone).
6. **Practise threading** using cotton, wool or string and pasta tubes.
7. **Practise cutting** skills by making pictures out of old flyers, magazines and newspapers, wrapping paper, food labels.
8. **Help with cooking**, weighing ingredients and looking at scales.
9. **Practice number bonds** and **number facts** to 10, 20, 50, 100
10. **Revise previous work** from lessons where your child needs practise again. Write out a few similar questions for them to solve. This can be useful for maths where you may have seen your child struggling with addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. You may also still have materials from the first lockdown that could be used.
11. **Television programmes** – The BBC have morning programmes dedicated to learning, CBEEBIES has programmes such as *Numberblocks* and *Alphablocks* which will support younger children with early number and phonics skills.

