



Wootton Bassett Infants' School

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Wednesday, 3rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to thank you for all your efforts with home learning. Please try to ensure that you and your child submit some work each week. There is no expectation that all tasks are completed but as a school we are accountable to the Local Authority.

As we move through Week 5 of the current lockdown, we are very aware that it is becoming increasingly hard to motivate some children and we do know how frustrating this can be. In school, we constantly have to try different ways of achieving good quality work and sometimes this might even mean abandoning an activity and doing something else until the children are ready to approach it in a more positive way.

After this week there is one week to go before half term, and we suggest you give the children a break from academic work over the holiday and if possible, try to focus on fun things. Some parents have told us that even in the very coldest weather, they have lit the barbeque, wrapped up warm and eaten outside around the fire. Another parent had a special meal where the table was laid in a more elaborate way and their child had made name place settings for the family. If you have a garden, perhaps your child could help you tidy up and prepare for Summer or you could make heart shaped bird feeders from bird seed and lard to hang up as a special valentine present for the birds.

We are sure you have lots of your own ideas and are doing things to make lockdown as enjoyable as possible. Film nights with popcorn can be fun! Please see links below if you would any more ideas.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2021/01/lockdown-activities-kids-winter/>

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/family/50-indoor-activities-kids-fun-ways-entertain-your-little-ones-home-gardening-arts-and-crafts-and-even-diy-2544148>

Thank you if you have collected books for your child from school. Reading continues to be the most important skill you can foster with your child and we really need your help to maintain their progress. After half term, to help motivate your child with reading, we will be introducing a reward system where children will be given a certificate for reading 6 books. Further details will follow.

Some parents have expressed deep concerns that their children are falling behind. We have a government funded catch up programme which will be put into place as soon as the children return to school and we have every confidence that this will work. When our Year 2 children came back in September, we were very concerned that they would not be equipped to reach the required standard in the phonics check but after an intense catch- up programme, 92% of our Year 2 children reached the standard with lots of them achieving full marks. After half term we will be organising some kind of parents meeting/consultation time to help address any issues you might have.

Finally, if you need any resources such as paper, exercise books, rulers or pencils please do not hesitate to ask for them.

Thank you for all you have done so far.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Hazzard