



27.04.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the staff and governors at Banks Road, I hope that you and your family are all well and keeping safe. It is a difficult time for everyone and we greatly appreciate your messages of support. We miss you all and you are never far from our thoughts.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your amazing patience and understanding in these challenging times for following school advice and for trusting that we are making the right decisions for you, your child/ren and our staff. I would also like to thank all the staff for their dedication and support.

### Our expectations for learning at home

Although we send home packs to complete and will continue to upload ideas to our website, there are no expectations from school about what you do or don't do. These are very unusual and unprecedented times. We do not expect you to turn your living room into a classroom, and we do not as parents expect you to teach your children as a replacement teacher.

Please remember:

- Our children might be scared at the moment. They see and hear a lot, even when we think they don't.
- Their routines and structures are disrupted. They may feel tension and anxiety from the adults around them. It is a completely new situation for us all.
- Children may expect the weeks ahead to feel like the summer holidays; we know that they will feel very different.
- They may react to all this by changing their behaviours and showing behaviours you have never seen from them before. This might be difficult for you and your family but it is natural and to be expected.
- Your child just needs these feelings to be acknowledged and to be reassured that you understand that life is just that bit less predictable at the moment.
- We completely understand also the difficulties from the parental perspective especially if you are carrying on with your job and working from home, or dealing with poorly children/family members. As staff, we are all trying to do this too.

Under these circumstances, home learning may well add to this anxiety and stress – for them and for you. So, please do not put yourselves, or your child under any pressure to complete any of the work set.

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- First and foremost, our children need to be reassured, comforted, loved and feel secure more than they need to be learning.
- Spend time together, play games, watch a film together.
- Try to have fun spending time together. Your child's emotional and mental wellbeing – and yours – is far more important than anything else.
- Try and keep children in a daily routine or structure in which they feel most secure.
- There needs to be a balance – home learning is not about teaching them or home schooling but to keep the children going so when they do come back there has been some working routine taking place.
- Encouraging your child to read daily, would be our main request at this time. Whether that's comics, recipes or instructions to make something, it doesn't matter – it all counts as reading! Don't forget that they all have logins for Rising Stars.
- Practice counting skills. E.g. for our key stage 1 children: counting in multiples (2's, 5's & 10's) for fluency.
- When your child is doing any writing activity, encourage them to practice the cursive style taught at school.

### Government guidance

Gov.uk has published a guidance on how to 'Help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus (COVID-19)'. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Within this document is a section on guidance for Reception, year 1 and year 2 children.

It includes advice and guidance around:

- structuring the day
- use of digital devices
- language development
- reading and writing
- numeracy
- information tailored to each age group
- information for those with children reaching the end of primary school

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## SATs Y2

We are sure that most of you will be aware by now, but in case you haven't heard, there will be no testing this year for pupils in Y2.

## Keeping in touch

Please feel free to contact the school email [office@totonbanksroad.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@totonbanksroad.notts.sch.uk) to ask any questions, queries or concerns you may have. For contact with your child's class teacher, please use the year group emails. All emails are checked on a regular basis. Please avoid airing concerns or worries on social media as in line with our normal school policies.

Thank you for your continued support

Carole Clemens

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