



18th March 2020

Dear Parents,

You know from my earlier letter that we have been planning for the possibility of school closure which now looks inevitable at some point. Throughout the closure, we will do all we can to continue to provide learning opportunities for the children under the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in.

Once we have closed, the school will set daily tasks for all pupils via Google Classroom, our online learning platform. Some of these will be to complete online and some will direct pupils to workbooks that will be sent home. Work will be available by 8:45am each morning Monday to Friday, provided that we do not experience staff illness which prevents us from setting work.

Pupils should complete their work daily so that a backlog of work is avoided. Where work is carried out online (e.g. typing up a story), it should be submitted by clicking on 'Turn in'. When work is completed on paper or in booklets, pupils should comment in Google Classroom to confirm that they have completed the work. *Obviously if children are ill, they will not be expected to carry out the tasks set.* However the more we can maintain a routine of learning Monday to Friday during term time, the more we will minimise the negative impact on children's progress over the period of closure. Clearly, the volume of work will not mirror what would be done in school so your child will still have lots of time to stay active, play games and learn new skills too.

Reading

A supply of reading books will be provided to each child and we will have a record of the books sent home. As well as these books, there are lots of different things that can be read including reading opening chapters that can be downloaded from <https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>; reading Newsround reports; reading comics; reading recipes etc; reading online information texts about e.g. history or science. We have found some good free websites with a range of books suitable for all ages. If you come across any others you would recommend, please let us know and we will share with everyone.

<https://www.freechildrenstories.com/>

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<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/free-ebooks/nook-books/kids/_/N-ry0Z8gaZtu1

Home Learning Pack

All children will be provided with a home learning pack and equipment such as pencils, pens, rubbers, sharpeners and paper.

In addition to the work set by teachers, all home learning packs have a list of suggested activities **which are optional** and can be done if and when you have time.

As well as reading books, some year groups will have the following additional resources:

Reception - Phonics support pack

Years 1 and 2 - Maths workbooks

Years 3 , 4 and 5 - A maths workbook; Reading comprehension books 1 and 2, blank maps of Europe and the world. *Please note that Year 4 reading comprehension books are currently on order and will be delivered to each pupil's house as soon as they arrive in school.*

Year 6 - A range of workbooks for maths, reading and SPAG, blank maps of Europe and the world (please save these until work is set to use them).

PLEASE NOTE THAT SPECIFIC WORK WILL BE SET EACH DAY. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE WORKBOOKS / RESOURCES UNTIL INSTRUCTED.

Login Details

Login details for Google, Mathletics and Times Tables Rockstars (where appropriate) will be sent home in learning packs and they will also be emailed to you in case you lose your hard copy.

Below are the details on how to log in to Google Classroom. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU CHECK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT YOUR CHILD CAN ACCESS THIS FROM HOME, BEFORE WE CLOSE SO THAT WE CAN SORT OUT ANY ISSUES IN THE MEANTIME.**

1. If you are using an Ipad, you will need to upload Google Docs and Google Drive.
2. In Google search, type Google Classroom or in the web address bar, type Classroom.google.com
3. Login using your child's email address which is their initial and surname @caton.lancs.sch.uk
E.g. a child with the name Joe Bloggs would be jbloggs@caton.lancs.sch.uk
Your child's password has been sent home.

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4. You will see assignments that have been set. Click on the assignment and complete the work. Once it is completed, click on 'Turn in'. If a question is set, please discuss with your child and then allow them to post the answer under the question.

Further information can be found on Youtube following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lowi-gmbys>

If your child encounters any problems accessing Google Classroom once we have closed, please contact either Mrs Keen or Mrs Bowskill by email and we will do our best to resolve the issue. gbowskill@caton.lancs.sch.uk ekeen@caton.lancs.sch.uk

Maths

We will include in the home learning packs copies of our calculations policies so that if your child is unsure how to calculate and they need help, you can see how to do this without confusing them. We will highlight on the policy the stage that your child is at and if they are using concrete equipment, such as Base 10 (rods and cubes), we will include a supply of this too. Please look after the equipment and return it to school on the first day back.

Communication during closure

We do hope that our period of closure will be short and we will all be back in school soon. The measures that we are taking are preparing for the worst case scenario - that we are closed for several weeks or months when a lack of learning would have a significant impact on your child's progress.

If, whilst we are off, you have any questions about how to help your child, teachers will be available by email and we will also provide you with a school mobile telephone number that will be manned during school hours by Mrs Bowskill.

We will provide you with regular updates as appropriate via email. If you think that we don't have your correct email address, please let us know immediately.

I realise that this is a lot of information to process which is why I am sending it out now, prior to closure, so that if you have any questions, there is time to come and speak to me.

Many thanks for your patience and understanding in this difficult period.

Best wishes.

Gail Bowskill

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