



Autumn
Term

December
2019



AL KHAIR PREP SCHOOL

Head Teachers Update

Balance without Compromise

Dear Parents,

As Salaamu alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuh

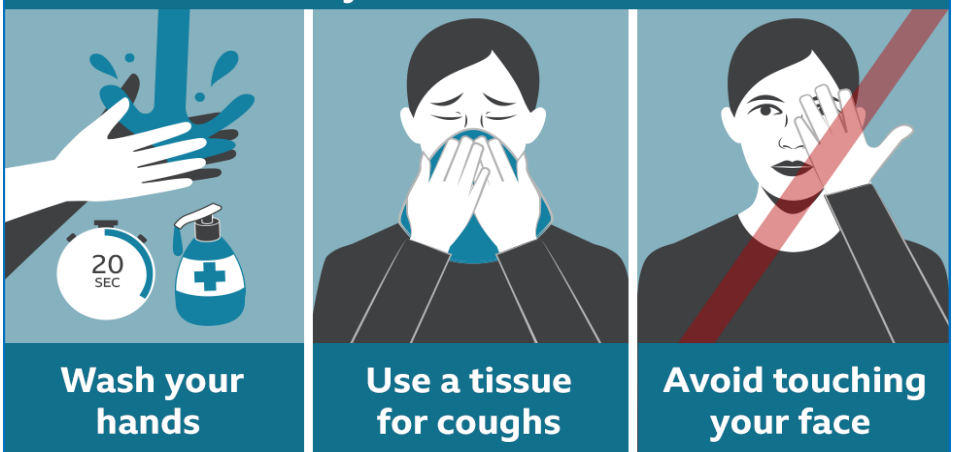
I hope you are in the best of health and eeman. These are challenging and unusual times. Thank you for all of your support and cooperation during these past few weeks. None of us could have prepared for what we are now facing and your patience and understanding has helped things run smoothly. Staff have really appreciated all of your messages and acts of kindness towards them. We are all totally devastated to not be able to do the job that we love in the way that we want to; working with the children in school.

Please could you share the above messages with them in a way that lets them know that we will miss them and care about them but without causing them unnecessary upset. This will be different for different children, especially the youngest ones. The main message they need to hear is that this is a temporary situation and things will get back to normal.

We will continue to develop systems to work remotely. The technology is out there to embrace and we will continue to look for better ways to keep in touch and support children with their learning.

We look forward to the day when we can return to school as normal. It's going to be hard not to see everyone for a while. Please keep safe and follow government guidance. This really is a time to do as we are told and make personal sacrifices for the good of everyone. I'm sure you'll all share the concerns that we have, for the need to be considerate of each other within our communities; particularly sharing resources and not being selfish. Caring for each other from a distance is a new and strange situation but we'll master it with caring, collaborative, critical and creative thinking. Take care, keep safe and be kind. You are a strong and supportive community and we will get through this!

Coronavirus: What you need to do



Ofsted Inspection

Remote Learning

As you know, a few weeks ago, Ofsted inspectors visited and inspected the school. They were very impressed with the school and with the children.

In'sha'Allah we will receive a letter in due course, that will report on their visit. After the formal elements of the inspection were concluded, one inspector said: "I have visited many schools, over the years and can say that pupils in Al Khair Prep are proud of their school and have behaved impeccably". "Pupils feel safe and happy at this school. In the words of one pupil who spoke to us, 'this is a small school but a big family'."

We are very grateful to all parents for their supportive messages and to all pupils for their excellent conduct in lessons and around school, and particularly when talking to the inspectors, during the inspection week.

10 TOP TIPS REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

- 1) Take an active interest in your child's learning**
As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.
- 2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity**
It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.
- 3) Establish a daily schedule and routine**
Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.
- 4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices**
Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will inevitably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.
- 5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home**
It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.
- 6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software**
Depending on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.
- 7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels**
It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.
- 8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies**
Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.
- 9) Maintain feedback with teachers**
Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to provide back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.
- 10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health**
Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @nationalonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.01.2020

Covid-19 Update

To help professionals, volunteers, parents/carers and children and young people know how they can stay safe and well, the Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership has produced a **COVID-19 Safe-guarding Information** which includes advice on:

- What to do if you are worried about a child
- Where to get help if you or anyone you know is at risk or experiencing domestic abuse
- How to access early help advice during this time
- Safeguarding e-learning - for anyone living and working in Croydon
- Information for parents/carers of children with SEND needs
- Parent/carer resources for home learning and staying safe online
- Private Fostering arrangement information
- Help and information points for children and young people
- Help and information for vulnerable adults/relatives/neighbours



Online Resources

Maths Resources

Below are links to online learning platforms so that the children can continue to consolidate and practice their skills at home. These resources will compliment the remote learning already in place.

whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/

(The White Rose Maths team has prepared a series of five maths lessons for each year group from Foundation – Year 6. They will be adding five more each week for the next few weeks. Every lesson comes with a short video showing you clearly and simply how to help your child to complete the activity successfully. This is a really high-quality resource for home learning).

iseemaths.com/home-lessons/ (Another really high-quality resource, delivered by a maths expert. Daily maths lesson videos aimed at KS1, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6).

bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08bzfnh/numberblocks (Number Blocks episodes on BBC iPlayer – useful for children in Foundation – Year 3).

whiterose-maths.com/resources/classroom-resources/problems/ (More resources from White Rose Maths – ‘Problem of the Day’. Each day includes a problem for Year 2 children and a problem for Year 6 Children. This might be a nice challenge for some children in Year 1 and 5!).

mathsbot.com/starters/numberOfTheDay (Number of the Day activity from mathsbot.com)

hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/ (Home learning packs for Year 1 – 6 from Hamilton Trust)

classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs/ (Home learning packs for Foundation – Year 6)

themathsfactor.com/ (Carol Vorderman’s maths website for primary school children)

ttrockstars.com/ (times tables practice)

topmarks.co.uk/ (maths games)

oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/ (English and maths activities)

kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk/ (English and maths activities – free until April 2020)

English Resources

spellingshed.com/en-gb (spelling games)

hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/learning-home-packs/ (Home learning packs for Year 1 – 6 from Hamilton Trust)

classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs/ (Home learning packs for Foundation – Year 6)

oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/ (English and maths activities)

kids.classroomsecrets.co.uk/ (English and maths activities – free until april 2020)

collins.co.uk/pages/support-learning-at-home (free access to Collins online resources)

Reading

phonicsplay.co.uk/ (phonics games and activities)

bbc.co.uk/news/education-33644201 (100 books ‘all children should read before leaving primary school’)

abebooks.co.uk (website with huge range of cheap second-hand books)

stories.audible.com/start-listen (free audio books)

Writing

hachetteschools.co.uk/hachette-schools-posts/hachetteschools-free-writing-friday/2018/04/24/cressida-cowells-free-writing-friday/ (Author Cressida Cowell’s ‘Free Writing Friday’ resources)

pobble365.com/ (Pictures to inspire writing, with tasks below each picture to give you ideas)

thatboycanteach.co.uk/2019/04/showing-instead-of-telling-in-middler.html (Author Kirsty Applebaum’s blog post about how to ‘show not tell’ when writing. Towards the bottom of the article there are ideas for how children can have a go at this)

Online Resources

Other Curriculum Areas

[twinkl.co.uk/blog/how-to-utilise-twinkl-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown-a-guide-for-parents](https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/how-to-utilise-twinkl-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown-a-guide-for-parents) (resources for all ages and all areas of learning)

[bbc.co.uk/bitesize](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) (educational games and resources for all ages)

[bbc.co.uk/teach](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach) (resources for all ages and all areas of the curriculum)

Science

[stem.org.uk/home-learning/primary](https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning/primary) (STEM: A range of science, technology, engineering and maths activities)

[youtube.com/user/maddiemoate](https://www.youtube.com/user/maddiemoate) (science and nature with Maddie Moate on YouTube)

[explori-fy.wellcome.ac.uk/activities](https://www.explori-fy.wellcome.ac.uk/activities) (Science activities)

History

[londonist.com/london/museums-and-galleries/calling-all-culture-vultures-here-s-how-to-experience-london-virtually-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic](https://www.londonist.com/london/museums-and-galleries/calling-all-culture-vultures-here-s-how-to-experience-london-virtually-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic) (virtual tours of London's museums)

Computing/ICT

[saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-3-11s](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-3-11s) (resources from the Safer Internet Centre, aimed at supporting primary school children to stay safe online)

[purplemash.com/login/](https://www.purplemash.com/login/) (An ICT learning platform where you can sign up for a 14 day free trial)

[studio.code.org/courses](https://www.studio.code.org/courses) (Coding activities for all ages)

scratch.mit.edu/ (Coding website)

code.org/learn (Hour of Code: coding activities)

[kahoot.com/](https://www.kahoot.com/) (set up a free account and create your own fun, interactive quiz for others to attempt)

Parental Engagement

Keeping parents informed and ensuring communication with the school is of paramount importance to us.

Please be assured that you are able to email the school and will be responded to within a reasonable time.

As a school, we appreciate that we are introducing new ways of learning and to help us with this endeavour, we will be sending questionnaire to all parents and ask for feedback. Please do complete these questionnaires, this will help us make improvements to our remote learning strategy.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ جَهْدِ الْبَلَاءِ وَدَرَكِ الشَّقَاءِ
وَسُوءِ الْقَضَاءِ وَشِمَاتَةِ الْأَعْدَاءِ
"Oh Allah, I seek refuge
in you from the difficulties
of hardships. And the acquisition
of wretchedness, and ill-fate, and
the enemy's malicious rejoicing
for my suffering."
(Sahih Al Bukhari #6347)