Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. Here at Buckingham we have been thinking of you all over the recent weeks.

We understand that for some of you these have been extremely difficult times and we send our very best wishes to those families who have been more closely affected by the current situation. Please do keep in touch with us as we will endeavour to support in any way that we can. A separate letter will be sent, shortly after this one, which may be of some use to you.

I hope your children are managing to continue with their home learning. We have created the learning packs which are paper based as we realise that an online learning system will not work for many of our families. We are keen to keep things as accessible and equitable as possible for our pupils. The important elements of home learning are to have some structure and routine and the expectation that there will be some work completed at home on a daily basis. There is a wealth of resources out there and we are including in this letter a number of links that may prove really interesting for your children. Teachers will be looking at your child’s home learning in the coming weeks. So please keep their completed work carefully until we ask for it to be returned. We will advise you further here.

Last week I asked the children in my last email to write to their teachers and tell us all about your time at home. We have had some wonderful correspondence, photographs and videos. You would be surprised just how many wobbly teeth are out there and a number of you are delighted that you have now learnt to ride your bikes. Your teachers have been so excited to receive emails and even some cards sent in and many will already have replied to you. What an amazing range of activities and learning you have been involved in. I hope we will be able to put some photographs on our website soon so we can share these with you.

I am sure you are all aware that the SATS tests and assessments will not take place this academic year for any school. I am sure we will hear in due course from the government with further information on this matter, which we will then report to you then.

You will also be aware from the news that there is now talk about schools and children returning. There is, as yet, no clear idea how schools will re-open at the moment. Please be reassured that we will be carefully watching government announcements and will work closely with the Local Authority before informing you of any next steps. We are sure that there will be many small and careful steps that will need to be taken.
Please see below for further useful resources to engage your children

Resources

- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Storybook for Children on COVID-19 "My Hero is You" is lovely and in lots of languages.
- A simple information sheet on 'Supporting Readers at Home' for parents/carers.
- Guidance on 'Reading Aloud with Children - 7 steps to make it magical' to share with parents.
- The NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) are offering support to parents / carers. This letter signposts the two new areas of the website, which are free to access and do not require a login.
- You may have seen this free e-book from Axel Scheffler and Julia Donaldson, if not it is available here.

Why not check out many of the great museums here and around the world online. Check with a grown up and do your research online.

We hope you will find these resources useful for the weeks ahead.

Best wishes to you and your families at this time.

Caroline Boyle
Headteacher