

15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Well done for getting to Friday!

Thank you so much for all the hard work you are doing to support the children with their learning. We are all amazed by both the amount and standard of work that is being produced and sent in from children who are remote learning. In fact, an amazing 97.3% of our 411 Stowford School children are engaged in learning. Thank you!

In order to help you to manage your day at home, I thought it might be helpful to give an idea of how long we would spend on activities at school so that, when supporting home learning, families have an idea of realistic expectations.

I have also attached 10 Top Tips for Remote Education from the National Online Safety organisation.

Foundation:

Each day the phonics, English, maths and topic/PE/mark making activities should take approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ hour each INCLUDING watching the explanation video. There is then up to an hour a day of extra challenges.

From Year 1 to Year 6:

English and Maths should take up to one hour each INCLUDING watching the explanation. Reading and spelling/phonics no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ hour each. Then there is the afternoon lesson that could take around an hour.

In school we usually have a 15 min break around 10:30 and an hour for lunch between about 12-13:00 for some fresh air, a run around and a play.

In school, when a lesson has finished we stop and move on to the next thing with a stretch and drink of water in between. Please don't feel pressure to do any more than that. Some children (depending on age and nature) will be happy to do more but for many it would be too much. We don't want families to fall out over home learning!

Take breaks from the screen; drink plenty of water and when time is up just stop and move on to something else. It may help to do subjects that your child finds hardest, or likes least, as the first lesson of the day while they are fresh and can take the challenge.

Your child might really enjoy listening to a story read by you. Even if a child is a good reader, listening to someone else reading helps to improve their mastery of fluency and understanding of vocabulary that may be beyond that which they can read themselves.

I hope that this is helpful! Please try not to worry - we understand home learning can be a challenging situation and we know everyone is doing their best.

With best wishes
Mrs Williams
Headteacher