



Willow Lane Community Primary School

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

RE: Learning at Home – Seesaw

This letter will give you an oversight of how we will be providing learning at home support and resources. As well as the materials already shared, including the '10 ideas...' and updated suggestions on the website, we will be moving, from the week beginning 20th April, to using an online learning platform called Seesaw.

Why are we using this online platform?

- This is a recognised platform used widely in the USA and by a growing number of schools in the UK.
- It is a secure platform which allows children to access and respond to learning provided by their teachers.
- It is a user friendly platform which parents and children find easy to use.
- Effective learning is more than schools just providing a list of activities and links to teaching resources. This approach allows our teachers to provide the appropriate learning for your children.
- This approach allows your children to see their teachers. Education is not simply about the resources, subjects and building and the relationships your children have with their teachers are key.

What are the aims of this approach?

- We recognise that delivering the full school curriculum in the home environment is not a viable option. This is especially true with the additional strains families are facing be they working from home, financial or anxiety linked to the pandemic.
- The maths and English learning will focus on the core expectations in each year group. This will help children have a secure grounding on which to build in future year groups.
- Your children will feel connected to their school and teachers by seeing them in weekly videos. It will be easier for parents to get children to complete the learning when it is set by their teachers rather than less bespoke links.

What do you need to do to be ready?

- As children will be using an online app to access and share their learning, we recommend reminding children of Online Safety expectations. Learning activities for all



aged children can be found on our website at <https://www.willow.lancs.sch.uk/mums-dads-carers/online-safety/>

- Carry on with the routines you have established. Your child still needs a mixture of different types of activities across the day and routines help children as well as adults. Remember that teaching a child 1:1 will not take as much time as teaching a whole class.
- By the 20th April, download the **Seesaw Class App** if your child is going to use a tablet or even a telephone. It is free to download.
- Visit www.app.seesaw and familiarise yourself with the 'I am a student' method of accessing if your child is going to be using a computer or laptop.

How will my child start using Seesaw?

- You will be texted a code. This will need to be entered on the app or the website. This code will be unique to your child and only allow them to access the learning set by their teacher.
- Once the code is activated, it will last the year.
- Children will click on the activities. These will include short videos as well as worded documents and there will be explanations with them.
- We recommend that parents access them with their children as children will still need things explained and talked through in order to learn them. That is how children learn in school.

What will the learning look like?

- Every week your teacher will be creating four inputs, including short videos, which will be assigned to your child. One will be maths based, one English based, one topic based and one something else such as teachers reading a book.
- Younger children will have a phonics based activity.
- There will not be too much learning. Many parents have found the expectations from schools to be daunting. A focus on the right learning rather than too much will be more effective in the long term.
- The video will 'teach' the children. It may also teach the adults for example a teacher may model a maths method which is different to the method you learnt and use. Following the maths example, the teacher will talk through a method, explain how this could be practised in the home environment and give suggestions for the week. Five maths sessions focused on a key area of learning will help consolidate the concept.
- There may be pdf sheets to solve or ideas on the video. Children will be able to upload images of their learning to the Seesaw. This will only be seen by the teachers who can comment on the learning.
- Carry on the reading, playing, chatting, times tabling, gardening, crafts, dog walking, baking etc etc and down time that you have already established.

Seesaw Frequently Asked Questions:

These can be found in a separate letter on the Latest Letters section or at the following link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55a6e4bde4b0b0ebce635c9d/t/5e853f47f911dd31e601c7e3/1585790796238/Remote+Learning+with+Seesaw+FAQs+for+Families.pdf>



As with any new approach, there may be teething problems. If you have any difficulties accessing the software, please do get in touch.

Finally, the previously shared bullet points are still things to consider:

- Primary school education works due to adults engaging with children. Giving children worksheets etc to just complete is not the same as learning.
- A balance between traditional activities and online learning is healthiest.
- Online safety should always be a consideration. All our children have had lessons on this and there is advice for parents in the 'Mums, Dads and Carers' section of our website.
- Our curriculum covers the full range of subjects including art, PE etc and home learning should echo this.
- A daily routine (bit of reading, maths, dog walk, PE, creative etc) will help both you and your child.
- An In/Out tray approach can be effective ie *this side is what we need to do and then we can....* Some of you may find having a 'Choices Board' of rewards helps.
- If you do not need to self-isolate then learning could take place outside.
- Activities such as gardening, baking, board games etc can be valid learning activities.
- You know your child best – use their interests.
- Learning is effective when it is fun!

Good luck with this new exciting approach to learning and we look forward to seeing what your children produce.

Mel MacKinnon

Mel MacKinnon
HEADTEACHER

