



# Bomere & the XI Towns Federation

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Thursday 26th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are aware that some of you may be feeling under pressure from the current situation. We hope this letter may help with some aspects from an educational point of view.

- This is not homeschooling. This is an unprecedented emergency situation impacting the whole world.
- We suggest you make learning fun- we don't want the children to be put off learning by completing copious amounts of worksheets across a day.
- Learning takes many forms- play with your child, help them with art and craft activities, listen to music and sing songs together, exercise and do practical activities such as preparing a meal or even get them to help with the housework! Don't forget most families have board games which often give children the chance to learn a range of skills (winning and losing is a skill in its own right!)
- You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. The school has no expectations on you to be a 'teacher'. If that was the case we would be out of our jobs. Do what you can do, what feels comfortable and appropriate for your child. If you don't understand some of the work that they've been given then leave it- or email school for some advice. You have not **chosen** to Home Educate your child. This situation has been forced on us all so just try your best.
- Please remember that children will find these changes difficult too, but that some routine helps the majority of children.
- The work we have sent home is for you and your child; we will not be asking for exercise books to be returned as they will not be marked by teachers when we return to school. This is because this would cause excessive workload for our staff and prevent them focusing on what we want the children to learn when we all return to normality.
- It is a challenge to facilitate distance learning with a primary aged child and work from home at the same time. Please see this as an opportunity rather than a challenge. You can certainly have activities where your child learns, but your focus is your job and health.

FAQs:

*X in my child's class has everything done and we've barely started. Will they fall behind?*

Even if everything were equal in terms of support and time and number of children etc (which it is not) pupils learn at different rates. This is all revision and reminder work; our belief is that if the children access at least some part of the work we are setting, their skills will be kept active.

*I'm not doing any work with my kids. All they're doing is Lego, cooking and playing outside.*

All of this is learning. Very valuable learning. Social skills and family time is a gift to be valued (particularly at this time).

*How can I get three different lots of work done with 3 different children of different ages?*

We have tried to set work with which children can be as independent as possible. Otherwise try to balance your day with something they can all engage with as well, e.g. reading a story together, some free writing, baking etc.

For us it is about staying healthy, both physically and mentally. This is a time our children will remember for a long time. They won't remember the work they did or didn't do at home, they will remember how they felt.

Please remember, you are doing enough. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for maintaining good mental health. Don't let school work be something that stresses you.

We hope to see everyone back soon; staff are already considering their plans for your return.

Thank you!

All of the staff across the Federation.