

Aspen Class

Working from Home Week beginning Mon 20th April

Dear parents

I hope you are all well and your families too. Last week I emailed you with suggested Literacy and Numeracy activities to do at home and have done the same for this week. I will continue to email you with Literacy activities and at the moment suggest carrying on with White Rose Maths Home Learning activities.

During the Easter holidays Trafford Parents Forum hosted an online Q&A with representatives from Trafford SEN service. This included Principal Educational Psychologist Karen Harris. She spoke about a few different areas that she knew had been concerning parents of children with SEN. She reminded everyone that parents had not asked to home educate and were not expected to replicate what would happen at school. I think it might be helpful to keep this in mind while you are at home with your children. I know lots of you are also trying to work at home, care for others and keep everyone safe and well. Please don't expect too much of yourself or your child at this time.

For many children with ASC or Social Communication Difficulties home is home and school is school. They may find it very hard to understand that what they see as school work now has to be done at home. Please don't worry if this is the case; I would take it slowly and hopefully they will begin to do a little and you can build on this.

I think it would also be helpful to be aware of how we run Aspen Class and ask you to keep this in mind when you are working with your child. Our children like to have a visual timetable to check what is happening throughout the day and if possible I would make a simple one at home. We use cards with a picture and label for each activity (making cards for the timetable could be something that you do together).



We always build in time between all activities for transition. Transition time might mean playing with construction toys, outdoor play, a snack, quite time looking at favourite books etc. I do think it will be important for the children when they are at home to continue to have 'down time ' and not to move quickly from one structured activity to another.

Almost all the lessons that we do in school involve a lot of opportunity for talk (adult and pupils!) Lots of talk helps to make sure that children understand what they are doing and helps them to see if they are doing things correctly. A lot of our children become anxious very quickly if they feel that they are going to make a mistake. We often do work first on whiteboards so that we can rub out all mistakes and help with spellings, composing sentences before we write them in our books. It may be difficult to do this at home if you don't have a whiteboard ; perhaps use scrap paper and make it clear that the work on that isn't going to be 'judged' by you.

I am including a link for a computer coding site that looks like it would be fun and educational to do at home. It is similar to a site the children have used in school Code.org, so I think they will understand how to use it.

<https://www.tynker.com/>

Another thing that we use a lot in class is Art Hub for Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ArtforKidsHub>

This is available on YouTube. The artist shows children how to draw something in very simple steps. When we do this in class we stop the video a lot and draw in very small steps. If you have a look at this you will see there are lots of things that you can choose to draw.

I've included a STEM Science Starters sheet on our class page that has some ideas for Science activities that could be done at home and I have asked Trafford Speech and Language Service for some advice on supporting children at home. They sent some information that will be on our class page too.

I hope that this all helps for now. Please send my love to your children, we do really miss our Aspen pupils.

Best wishes

Ann