

Exciting competitions inside – art, geometry, attendance in live lessons and go-read!

West Park Post



Dear parents and carers,

HOME LEARNING DURING LOCKDOWN 3

A huge thank you to families who are overcoming the initial challenges of home learning in the last week; I know that we all want **learning to continue** for children over the next half term.

Because of this, teachers are working very hard to plan a range of both live and recorded lessons. It is really important this is treated like a usual school week where children do the work in lesson time. Teachers and teaching assistants are available to give feedback and support the children.

We are not expecting you to 'teach' but support your child with routines and habits that will be good for both their learning and mental well-being. Learning in live lessons has been fantastic so let's keep it up 😊

School has also bought maths and English books, pencils, colouring pencils and rulers that will be distributed to every child. The books can then come back to school, full of amazing work, when we return!

Top tips for home learning

- Do work at a table and sit on a chair
- Change out of pyjamas, especially for live lessons
- Don't eat during live lessons
- Turn microphones off during live lessons, unless directed by teacher or teaching assistant
- An adult is in the room during live lessons for pupils in nursery, reception, years 1 and 2
- Have really high standards for presentation and handwriting
- Ask the teacher for help when needed both during live and recorded lessons, on Seesaw or via email
- Submit work via Seesaw or email. Children working on an iPad or with access to iPhone have a scan function in notes which is very useful.
- If your child is ill, report 'absence' from learning by phoning school office before 9am as usual

Support with access to technology and the internet

Access to technology and the internet has been a barrier and we have loaned many DfE devices this week, applied for data allowances where parents have requested this, and requested WiFi hotspot codes and dongles from the City of Wolverhampton Council. Seesaw and Teams can also be accessed via a PlayStation.

The LA is also offering **10 week courses to parents on digital literacy** – please email office@westparkprimaryschool.co.uk if you would like to take part, or ring the school if you cannot access emails. 01902 558238.

Rewards for good online attendance during lockdown

Joining live lessons and doing work set online is really important for children while they are working at home or coming into school during lockdown.

To recognise this, we are going to give 'attendance' certificates and have a prize raffle for those who attend and work well online while school is closed.

To be 'in it to win it' your child will need to attend 100% of live lessons during lockdown where possible and complete at least 75% of online work. Remember – joining in online is the best way to make sure children are ready to learn well again as soon as we return to the classroom.



Still need help with a device or mobile data? Contact the office:

office@westparkprimaryschool.co.uk

01902 558238



Lessons run from 8:30am – 3pm every day. Make sure your child has a good night's sleep and is up and ready to learn.

Some lessons will be through Seesaw and teachers and teaching assistants will be online to help your child learn.

Some lessons will be LIVE through Teams – how exciting!

Please make sure that your child has somewhere suitable work – not in a bedroom please – better somewhere that an adult can check in and be aware of what is happening – many of you will enjoy seeing the lessons too. 😊

We will start to monitor closely from Monday 11th January. This will have given you all time to get in touch about any issues. If your child is ill and cannot work then just let the office know and they can mark this on the learning tracker. You can expect a call or home visit if your child is not attending lessons and completing work because we do not want any child to be left behind with big gaps in learning.

Winter Art

You are all invited to be part of a winter themed online art exhibition next month.



You can do anything at all with a winter theme.
Please upload your pictures to Seesaw by the
31st January 2021.
From Mrs Embrey

DESIGN YOUR OWN GOREAD REWARD CARD

Calling all budding designers! Your chance to have your artwork shared with the GoRead world!



It's simple:

Design a reward card and send it across to us (with your parents or teachers help!). We will choose the best ones and they will be transformed into GoRead Reward Cards that everyone can earn for logging reading!

Rules:

- 1 entry per child
- Must be original designs
- Judges decisions are final
- Send your entries to:
goapps@squirrellearning.co.uk
- Closing date: 15th February at 5pm

Good Luck!



www.go-read.co.uk

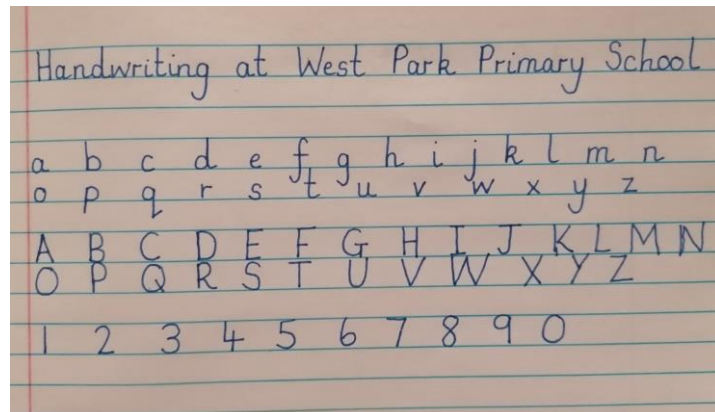
 **Squirrel Learning**
Enhancing Education

Handwriting

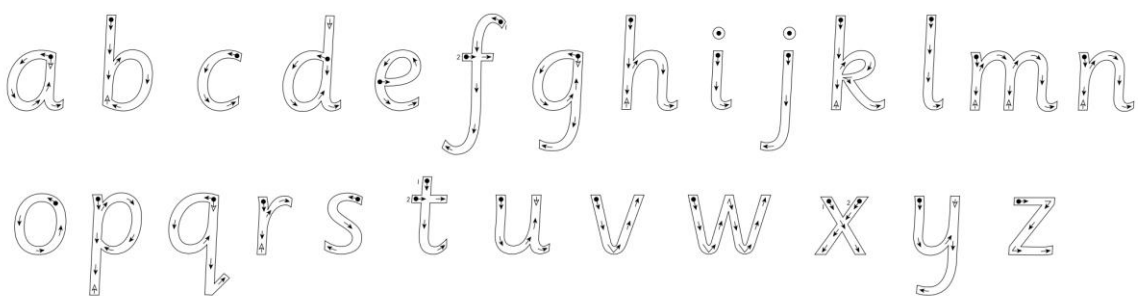
Following the first lockdown, teachers noticed that some children had not used a pencil for a long period of time. This impacted children's progress in writing and caused many children pain when writing in class. Children have small muscles in their hands and fingers that need to be developed through fine motor activities such as picking up small objects, manipulating tools and handwriting.

Therefore, during this school closure, we will be providing daily handwriting sessions for children via Seesaw.

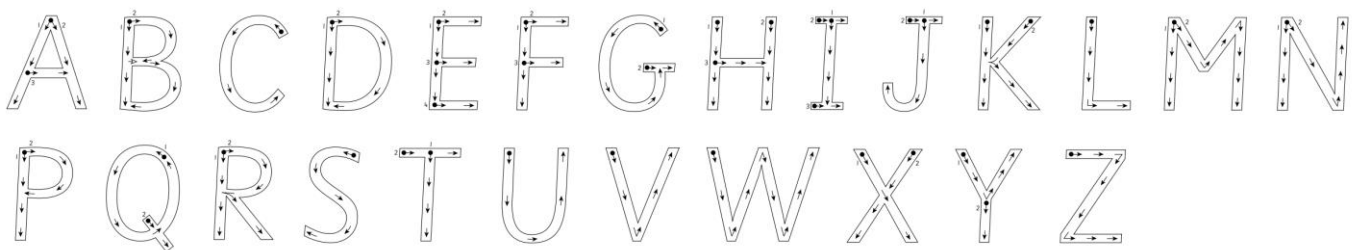
- ✓ Children in **EYFS** should practice their handwriting for 5 minutes
- ✓ **KSI** (years 1 and 2) should aim to practice handwriting for 5-10 minutes
- ✓ Children in **KS2** (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) should practice fluent legible handwriting for 10-15 minutes



As a reminder, correct letter formation for lower-case letters is as follows. The arrows show the direction of your child's pencil:



Capital letters are formed as follows:



7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)

Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: eef.li/literacy-early-years

Education Endowment Foundation (2019).

Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: eef.li/literacy-ks3-ks4

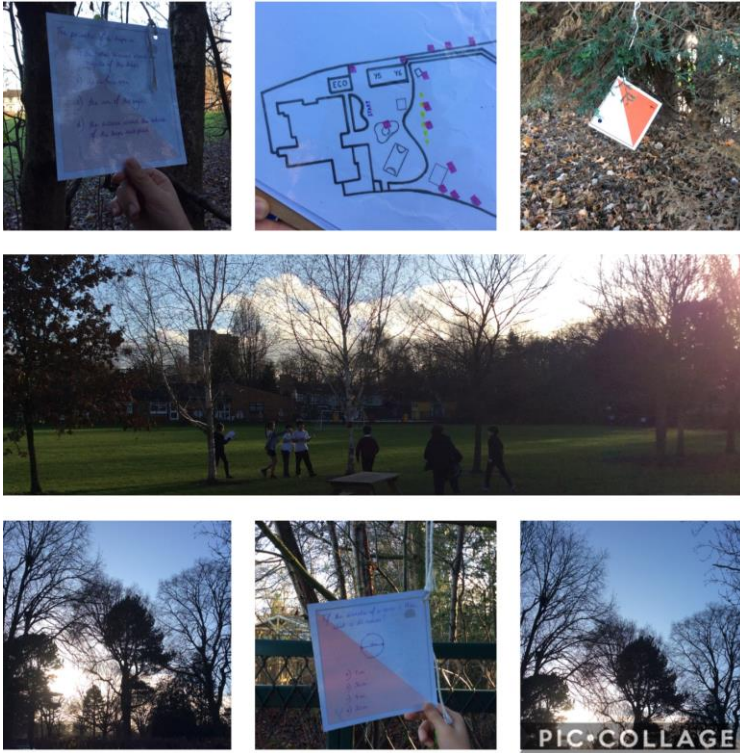
Breadmore, H.L., Vardy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Kwok, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2019).

Literacy Development: Evidence Review. Education Endowment Foundation: London.

Available online: educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf

Geometry competition - reminder

Maths buzz was created across the school with 'Geometry Day' last term. All the children took part in activities to explore shape, symmetry, co-ordinates, some amazing art plus so much more, both in the classroom and beyond which included some P.E. and orienteering activities.



For more information about Maths Mastery at West Park Primary please look at the website:

www.westparkprimaryschool.co.uk/maths

A mastery approach means children spend longer on fewer mathematical concepts whilst working at greater depth. This goes alongside a priority curriculum this year, where children are catching up with learning following lockdown. We believe that every child can succeed in maths!

We want to keep this buzz going whilst the children are at home with you. We are launching our **GEOMETRY HOME LEARNING PROJECT COMPETITION**. You can do this as a family or individually. There will be a winner selected from each year group. So, come on join in - get mathematically creative. Have a look at the photos below for some inspiration. Alternatively google 'geometry projects' online and checkout the images. **Email** westparkprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk by 29th January 2021!!

