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Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As a team we know our families are under increased pressures during this time. We know that for those families whose children are not yet able to attend school, the challenge of home schooling while meeting the demands of your own work is testing.

Following some feedback on our home learning, we have made some updates to the template to try and further support you and your child. The updates are as follows:

- There will be 4 or 5 weekly tasks for maths and literacy;
- An additional video will accompany the home learning to help explain key concepts and offer practical suggestions for supporting your child at home;

As before, there continues to be the expectation that the reading and spelling tasks are repeated daily and the activities for other subject areas are completed over the course of the week.

We know that the commitments parents can make to supporting their children's home learning will vary significantly. Please use these materials as a starting point and adapt them to meet your own schedules and child's needs. We have offered and continue to offer Keeping in Touch Calls where a member of our team can discuss ways to tailor the home learning as well as responding to any individual questions about supporting your child. If you would like one of these calls, we ask that you please contact the school office on office@hassocksis.com or your class email address and we will happily arrange for a member of the team to call you.

If you feel your child would benefit from further home learning, please visit The National Oak Academy website: <https://www.thenational.academy/>. This is a national initiative and many schools are using this resource solely to provide the home learning for their children. There is a wealth of videos and lessons provided daily by qualified teachers. Our home learning will continue for the remaining two weeks of the summer term. After this point, we would highly recommend using the National Oak Academy if you wish to provide some home learning over the summer holidays. There is also all the resources on our home learning section on the website from weeks gone by which may support with revision.

The weekly Zoom calls for the children continue to focus on Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), as well as an opportunity for children to connect with their peers. These replace the regular phone calls. As most of staff are working on-site and teaching full-time, we do not have the capacity to offer any additional Zoom calls or online teaching sessions.

All of the team have been working incredibly hard at finalising virtual end of year celebration activities and assemblies. We are hoping that these will provide an opportunity for children to celebrate all of their achievements over the past year and reconnect with their friends plus preparing for their transition to the next year group.

We are now finalising our staffing structure for next year and this will be complete by the end of next week. Once this is organised, we will contact the parents of Reception and Year 1 children to share transition arrangements for next year. We would like to reassure families that children will move on to their next year group in their current classes; we will not be mixing any of the classes this year. As you may be aware, schools only received guidance from the DFE about expectations for next year yesterday afternoon. We are working on reviewing this and we will communicate updates to you as soon as we can.

We do hope that the updated home learning template further supports all of our children and families. We want the very best for all of you and truly miss our community being together at school.

We hope you all have a good weekend.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'L'.

Lauraine Smith
Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead