Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you and all your families fit, well and strong.

So I imagine just like all of you, I never expected the start of 2020 and the Spring Term to develop in such a phenomenally unprecedented way and yet here we are in the most unusual of circumstances arriving at the beginning of the Easter Holiday.

In their own way, the end of each term always brings unique moments but I have to acknowledge this may trump them all as we bring to a close week two of Learning at Home in ‘virtual’ Reigate Priory School.

As this special newsletter edition testifies, our school community although apart is still very much together with learning happening in hundreds of new classrooms and settings, both in and outdoors, instead of the usual twenty and on our school site.

Class teachers have been hugely impressed with the responses they have received from the children via their class email addresses and some children may even have received a very special acknowledgement for their efforts from either myself or Mrs Dean, who has even been handing out virtual Deputy Headteacher stickers - clearly I will need to sort a similar Headteacher version for the start of the new term.

Collectively, a massive well done to all the children (and their parents too) on the Learning at Home to date – you have set a great early standard and one to be justly proud of so well done! I hope you enjoy getting a taste of what has been going on in the various ‘mini’ Reigate Priory classrooms over the next few pages.

Although we have encountered rough waters these tricky times do bring out the best in people and my experiences so far both in our locality and in our own school community have offered some truly heart warming and reassuring moments. I want to recognise the efforts of my staff team who are all going above and beyond and will continue to do so in the face of this challenge. Everyday I am thankful for their professionalism and commitment - they really are an extraordinary crew!

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and Governors of Reigate Priory School, I would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts, understanding and cooperation in support of your children’s learning at this unique time and I would like to wish everybody a great holiday and to those who are celebrating, a very Happy Easter!

Regards and Good Health

Mr Moses
LEARNING AT HOME

Contact with Class Teachers:
If you have not yet been in contact with your child’s class teacher either at all or this week then please can we encourage you to do so at your next and nearest opportunity. Teachers are enjoying electronic communication with their class members and receiving some of their Learning at Home to review and offer feedback – it would be a shame for anyone to miss out. The email addresses for all teachers are available on the Year Group Learning pages of the school website.

Learning at Home Feedback and Next Steps:
Thank you to all those parents and children who have offered feedback on the provision to date – we really appreciate your kind and supportive words and are pleased that the offer is well received. We have undertaken an initial review of which the outcomes for after the Easter Holiday include:

- Streamlining the process for uploading the learning so that it will be available as close to, if not before, midday on the Monday.
- Providing the task and the answers where appropriate at the same time. This will allow children to receive more immediate feedback on their tasks and support parents further in guiding their children to the best possible outcome.
- Additional PSHE and Mindfulness activities and support to go alongside PE to help maintain children’s health and wellbeing.
- Modifying the Maths offer to include access to video tutorials alongside the associated learning tasks. More information will be available before the start of the Summer Term.

When it comes to planning your child’s learning week, please remember that although the actual task will obviously change, the time expectation, subject areas and quantity will only differ slightly, if not be the same. This allows families to set a weekly timetable if they wish and use it week on week, or modify their plans to suit any particular family circumstances.

Politely, please understand that the teachers are also working from home as well as supporting those children currently still attending school. Many of the teachers have families themselves and can fully empathise with you all. They are trying their utmost best to meet their teaching commitments and those of any poorly colleagues that may arise but also care for their families at this sensitive time. As we are sure you can appreciate, clearly this is a tricky balance and can sometimes mean that slight delays are possible in the learning provision—your understanding is appreciated.

Easter Holiday Activities:
Clearly, these Easter Holidays are going to be rather different from normal and although we would encourage all children to have a break from their study to recharge ready for the Summer Term, we do recognise that the usual adventures and pursuits that families may enjoy may not be possible. Therefore, arriving via ParentMail and the school website will be Reigate Priory’s ‘Holiday Bingo’, a great collection of things for your child to tackle and enjoy if the need arises – we hope they come in useful and an updated version will be provided into week two of the holiday.
Learning at School

I have been coming to school for the last week and have really enjoyed learning with lots of different teachers. We have decorated a rainbow encouraging people to "be kind" for the front door of the school. In Maths I have been practising counting on in tens and one hundreds and I have been learning spellings ending in -sion.

My favourite time has been playing tennis with Mr Lombardi and golf chipping games with Mr Morris and Miss Winterton - it was fun playing lots of different games.

It has been a bit different at school but I have really liked spending time with teachers that I don't normally see and even having lunch with them!

By Amber 4FY

I have been in school three days since we closed and three very happy days they have been! Having not been full time in the classroom for some years now, it was lovely to return to my teaching roots. My highlights have been eating lunch with the children, playing croquet on the field and practising our photography skills in the Friendship Garden. I have also been very lucky to be forwarded some exceptional Learning at Home examples. It was lovely to be able to email children personally to give them a "virtual Deputy Headteacher Award" for their efforts.

I have first hand experience, as many of the staff members do, of home schooling as I support my own Year 5 and Year 8 children. I think I'm better with an assembly of 600 children than a dining room table of 2! I would like to thank all the staff who have been into school but especially Steve who is there everyday to help us. Looking forward to sharing more learning!

Mrs Dean

Viking Decorative Box
by Olivia 5EP

Spider by Jenson 3VS
My Superhero Writing Task

The alarm shook the building. Batman, who was annoyed at being interrupted during his lunch, shouted to Iron man and asked what had happened. “I’m not sure!” Iron man shouted back. “It had better be good.” grumbled Batman. The building had finally stopped trembling so the crew went over to the computer and stooped low over it. “False alarm,” grunted Hulk. Iron man looked around nervously, they had never had a false alarm before. Batman thought deeply, “I think we should go to Central city, to see if there really is any trouble,” he announced, “That is where the trouble usually is.” There was a nod of agreement from the superheroes and so they set off.

Flying over Central city the view was spectacular. Cars whizzed by and a plane or two flew swiftly past. Better yet, there were no explosions, no screams, this was a normal day in Central city. Batman gave a sigh of relief, it was all just a computer malfunction.

The journey home was a calm one, everyone was at ease and Batman was happily thinking of chicken nuggets, every now and then giving a sigh of joy. When they walked through the door Iron man grunted something about closing a window and Batman went to find his chicken nuggets. But then…….

“Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!”moaned Batman. “What is it?” asked Hulk nervously. “My chicken nuggets are gone!” said Batman, his face now turning red with anger. Batman then vowed he would find out who had done this and began to ask people what had happened while they had been away. Superman vaguely said something about the Joker being around and when Wonderwoman confirmed this story Batman set off.

“Joker!” Batman’s voice rang through rooms of the Joker’s lair. There was a manic cackle from somewhere in the building. “Wanna play hide and seek?” sang the Joker, “Your batty watty wings can reach places I can’t!” Another manic cackle pierced the following silence. The Joker started counting.

“Come on batty boy you can’t stay silent for long!” Batman jumped into the room and the Joker let out a gasp of surprise. Batman angrily strangled the Joker to the ground and threw a punch at him. “Feisty little boy aren’t you!” cried the enraged Joker. “Chicken nuggets. Where are the chicken nuggets?” said Batman in a finalising tone.

“Where do you eat chicken nuggets?” grinned the Joker. Batman ran through to the dining room and sure enough there were his chicken nuggets. He gave the Joker one last evil stare, knocked him unconscious, journeyed back to Gotham and started to eat his chicken nuggets in peace. THE END.

By Olwen 5JL
The Mighty Jaguar by Lucas 4AP

The big brave jaguar has mighty jaws.
A very long tail and tough padded paws.

Like a speeding bullet, he runs as fast as 50 miles per hour.
And energetically, he runs with all his power.

He devours huge size lizards, black coconuts and monkeys;
And terrorises bears and grows as he grows.

Zooming in the understorey, he scratches and climbs,
Stirred, searching for prey he can find.

Extract from Balanced Argument Writing which was planned, drafted and edited by Lily 6OM

Hnefatafl Board Game by Caitlyn 5EA

Easter Story Map by Zoe 5HM

The Hummingbird by Tom 4LW

The Cough by Benjamin 4IB
Our Activities at Home

Keeping Fit Nicole 5EA & Sophie 5HM

Getting Creative Outside Felicity 5HM

Getting Active Eliza 4AP

Making Bread Harry 5HM

Building a Bug Hotel Cecily 4AP

Some encouraging and wise advice from Manuel 6LP who painted this rainbow to display in his window