

Home Schooling

Spring 2021

Guidance and Support for Families

In the current situation we understand that home learning is a daunting and challenging prospect. At Mill Lane, we want to make learning at home as accessible as possible to all of our families. In this leaflet you'll find information on what we are offering, where to find it, who you can talk to and much more.

Where to find Home Learning Resources

We are using our websites as Home Learning Hubs, meaning that you will be able to find everything you need for each week.

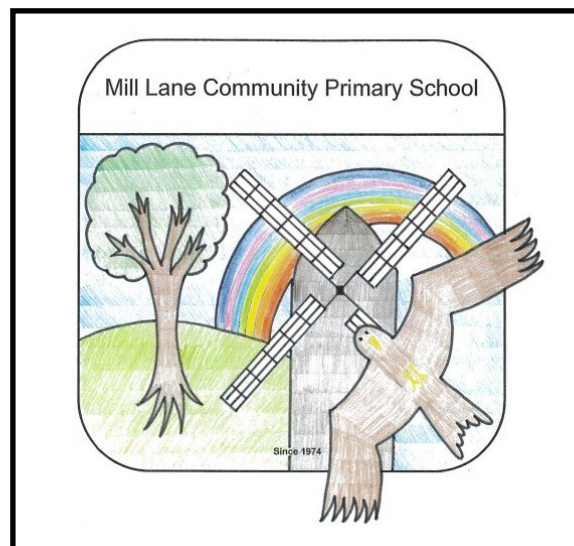
For children in the Windmill Nursery please visit *Crow's Home Learning* page at: www.windmillnurserychinnor.co.uk

For children in the main school, please visit the *Home Learning* page at: www.mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk. Pages here are organised into individual classes.

Work and resources are updated regularly.

Planning Each Day

Class teachers will provide you with a timetable to help you structure each day. This is for guidance only and you are welcome to be flexible with timings, which is one of the reasons we are not doing daily 'live' online lessons. We have left Fridays as 'catch up' days in case more time is needed on certain tasks.



Online Platforms and Resources

Here is a reminder of the online resources that we are using for our home learning activities. Your child will have been given individual logins for the ones relevant to them. Please contact the class teacher if you need any login information.



Bug club is our online library with books appropriate to your child's reading age and access to phonics, spelling and grammar activities.



Purple Mash is home to many online activities and can also be used to submit work. Children have direct email accounts here. Some classes also have blogs set up.

Spellingframe

Most classes have dedicated spelling activities set up here for each child with many fun games.



More great online curriculum resources here including the popular times tables songs

DYSLEXIA GOLD

A great support resource for reading and spelling being trialled by Years 3 and 4.

Keeping in Touch

Each class has its own dedicated email address to allow parents and teachers to communicate directly. It is also a way of sending in completed work, if the class teacher has requested this.

Please bear in mind that teachers are still working full time so may not be able to respond to emails straight away. We would also ask that emails aren't sent after 6.30pm or at weekends, unless in the case of an emergency.

Here's a reminder of the class email addresses:

Nursery: Nursery@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk

Reception: Reception@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk

Year 1: Class1@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk

Year 2: Class2@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk

Year 3: Class3@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk

Year 4: Class4@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk

Year 5: Class5@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk

Year 6: Class6@mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk

Staying Calm

We know that home learning environments can become fraught so here are a few pieces of advice that might help alleviate stress and help everyone stay calm:

- ♦ plan the day ahead with your child. Write down or use a visual timetable (available on the school website) so that the children know how long each task will take and what comes next. Plan in plenty of brain breaks and time to go outdoors and get fresh air;
- ♦ use a reward system so that children know they can have a treat, such as playing with a toy, having time on a device, etc. You could use Fridays as an incentive for a family treat such as watching a film or going on a long walk, for example;
- ♦ using marbles in a jar or stickers is great!

Virtual Meetings

Virtual meetings are offered to all children who are not currently attending school. These take place using Microsoft Teams and class teachers will email out the links to individual meetings. Most classes are now holding at least two meetings per week online with the aims of discussing the work that has been set and having an opportunity to share the work once it has been completed. Specific groups for interventions, such as 1:1 reading are also taking place and parents will be notified of these as appropriate.

Top Tips for *Teams*

In order to make *Teams* calls as valuable as possible for every participant, please follow this guidance:



- download the *Teams* app (it's free!) onto your device if you can. It tends to be more reliable and has more useful features;
- please make sure the children attend calls at the times sent out by the class teacher;
- please let class teachers know if your child is unable to attend a call;
- where possible, please set your child up in a quiet space without background distractions;
- use 'Gallery Mode' if possible so that you'll be able to see everyone on the call at once (You can find this feature by pressing on the ... icon. This is also the place to find different backgrounds);
- use the 'hand' signal if you want to say something (to avoid interrupting and so the teacher knows you'd like to speak);
- know how to 'mute' and 'unmute' the microphone. In larger groups it may be necessary to ask everyone to stay muted unless they are contributing;
- pets, as lovely as they are, can be a distraction on the calls so we ask that they only join the call if the teacher says it's OK.

Getting the best out of Home Learning

Here are a few more useful tips for getting the best out of having to learn at home:

- don't try to replicate school: you can't always do what teachers do in a classroom at home. Work within your resources and abilities;
- be flexible: things may not always go to plan but don't panic;
- set a timetable that works for you. Ours are just a guide but may not fit in with work commitments or having more than one child at home so feel free to adapt;
- agree a set of rules to work with. Adults and children could both sign this as a contract and then stick to it;
- have high expectations: we all want the children to do their best.
- try to stick to the curriculum we send out as this is designed to build on previous learning;
- balance online and offline time. Too much time on a device, even when working, can be unhealthy;
- get outdoors. Being out in the fresh air is great for body and mind. The outdoors is also a great ready-made learning environment;
- have confidence in yourselves. You might not have trained to be a teacher but you still have a great deal to offer;
- encourage independence. It is rare for an adult to work 1:1 with a child for long periods in school, so encourage times to work independently at home;
- remember that you're not alone. Speak to the teachers and other parents. A problem shared...

Devices

Home learning can be accessed through PCs, laptops or tablets. Some virtual learning can also be accessed through games consoles such as PlayStation and X-Box, so it may be worth exploring this if you have one. If you are struggling, please let us know as we may be able to help.

Class teachers can also print out work if you are unable to do this. Please ask the class teacher.

Everything is a learning opportunity!

So many activities in the home are great learning opportunities, such as cooking, gardening, crafts and even keeping the house clean and tidy! This is a great time for children to learn in the most unlikely of ways. Be creative!

Useful Home Learning Resources

It's always good to have that something extra up your sleeve!

- ◆ TOPMARKS website: has an excellent range of activities including a favourite for times tables, *Hit the Button*.
 - ◆ BBC bitesize: a great point of reference which includes lots of film clips on many subjects.
 - ◆ Oak National Academy: An online school, complete with video lessons and resources for all ages.
 - ◆ PE with Joe - shape up with Joe Wicks on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on YouTube.
 - ◆ BBC Lockdown Learning: educational programmes are available daily on TV and through iPlayer.
- There are too many online resources to list here so check out the school website for more ideas. Please let us know if you have discovered a gem - we may not know about it!