



# SPEEDWELL INFANT SCHOOL

College Avenue, Staveley, Chesterfield S43 3JJ

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Headteacher: Mrs. Jane Moore

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25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all managing okay at home during this challenging time. I just wanted to update you on plans to support you over the coming weeks.

We still have a very small number of children in school where they fall into the government priority groups for continued school access. If you think you may fall into one of these groups, please contact school by email on

[info@speedwell.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@speedwell.derbyshire.sch.uk), through the school website contact page or through the school Facebook page and we can advise you further.

We are currently organising vouchers for families who are eligible for free school meals and will contact you individually by text or email if you are eligible with further details once we have a system in place.

We know some of you have been worrying about how best to support your child's learning at home. The most important thing at this time is to be together as a family and not create additional stress. We are not expecting you to teach your children as they would receive at school, but we would suggest the following:

- Establish a daily routine where children get up, have breakfast and get washed and dressed at a similar time each day, and maintain a bed time routine where children are not staying up too late.
- Share a book and read with your child every day. There are some links to online books and stories on the school website, and we will add more week by week.
- Do some physical activity each day, children need this for their physical development, their brain development and their mental health. There is a new link to REAL PE on the school website which will help with this. Getting outside if you are able is also important. When the weather is nice, use your garden if you have one, children can learn lots outside. Make sure you take your daily exercise in line with government guidelines, whether this is a walk, a bike ride or a scoot.
- Set aside part of the day for children to complete a learning activity. This could be something their class teacher has sent, accessing a phonics

website, or just practicing key skills such as adding numbers together, practicing letter formation or making something.

- Remember, lots of learning can take place through daily routines. If you are sorting the washing, children can find the matching socks and talk about patterns on the clothes. Pegging the washing out using pegs supports development of the muscles in the hand which then help children to control a pencil better when they are writing. If you are baking or making the tea, you can weigh and measure things out, talk about how ingredients change when you add another ingredient, and again mixing, sieving and stirring support muscle development in the hands.
- Children will also enjoy and benefit from imaginative play with an adult. This could be building a den in the house or the garden (if you have one) and then planning an adventure linked to the den. It could be playing with make believe toys and making up a story about what happens to them. It could be a bath time adventure using some bath toys to make up a story. The important thing is that you join in with the imaginative play and help the children to use new and interesting words linked to that play. Older children could also write stories linked to their imaginative play.

To support you with your child's continued learning at home, teachers will post a new weekly learning idea on the school website for you and your child. You will also receive a weekly text about this idea so you know to look for it on the school website. Your child's teacher will also phone you every couple of weeks to see how things are going, answer any questions you have and talk to your child about their learning. If you need to contact school to ask about your child's learning, please email school at [info@speedwell.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@speedwell.derbyshire.sch.uk) and someone will reply to you within a couple of days.

We know this is a challenging time for everyone, and you will all do the very best you can for your children. We are all missing seeing the children every day, and will keep sharing ideas and supporting you as best we can. We are still here for you if you need us, just contact us by email on [info@speedwell.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@speedwell.derbyshire.sch.uk), through the school website contact page or through the school Facebook page. If it is urgent you can try ringing school, but the office will not always be staffed, so if no one answers the phone please email instead.

Enjoy spending time with your children and make this a happy fun time for them, don't create any unnecessary stress. When we get back to school they will catch up on their learning.

With best wishes  
Mrs Jane Moore  
Headteacher