

SEND News – at home learning



It's the first week of a new term, albeit still in rather strange circumstances. I hope you all managed a safe and enjoyable Easter break.

The government announced another three weeks of lockdown on Thursday 16th April so schools remain closed to all bar the most vulnerable and children of critical workers. The advice remains the same therefore. If it is safe to keep your child at home, you should do so in order to protect yourselves and us all.

I've had contact with many parents who are finding things tricky and this is heightened when a child has Special Educational Needs. Many children prefer learning at school and reject this at home. Others are finding the reduced sensory stimulation at home preferable. Either way, the most important factor in these times of lockdown is to maintain a happy and healthy household. Please be assured that Acorn schools are planning hard to support home learning as well as for when we all return to school.

With best wishes and keep safe,

Sue Fulbrook (SEND Director)



Look what some Acorn learners have been up to...



Alex has been learning about healthy eating and has been cooking at home. He is above with his healthy lunch. Grace has made a paper-mache volcano and been researching about dinosaurs. Great work!

What might home learning look like for children and young people with SEND?

Please remember that parents and carers are not expected to take over as educators in these unique times. Schools will be supporting parents/carers to support their children. We know that many parents and carers are also trying to work from home which makes things even more challenging. It is very much about trying to work together to make things work for the children and young people with SEND. Here are some top-tips:

- 1) First and foremost, keep things as calm as possible. Make time for playing and relaxing. Don't push work where you know it will trigger a meltdown. Factor in quiet time during the day to focus on calm for all in the home.
- 2) Don't have a rigid timetable and try to copy the school day exactly. It is different at home. Rather, have structure to the day by following familiar routines for getting up (though it might be a bit later!) and mealtimes and going to bed. Plan sections of the day for learning activities, but be prepared to be flexible. The length of these will depend on age. Some younger children may only be able to focus with adult support for 10 minutes, but teenagers may manage much longer perhaps up to an hour.
- 3) Allow your child to choose some things which interest them to pursue perhaps creating their own projects. You could record the learning through photographs and videos too. Remember that play or research is learning for all ages.
- 4) Choose online games and resources for practising basic skills where possible. These are often quite motivating and rewarding. Your school may direct you to some of these. There are many lists on the internet too. BBC bitesize looks fab as well.
- 5) Plan an exercise routine into the day – this might be outdoor play, an exercise video, a local walk or you tube PE videos.
- 6) Let the teacher know if your child is struggling with any set work. Please share examples of learning with us too.