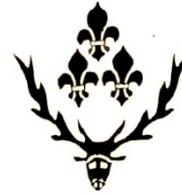


# Giffards Primary School

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## 'Valuing Everyone As Learners'

30/3/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we enter our second week of school closures, I just wanted to say thank you to all parents/carers. We are so appreciative of all the work you are putting into making sure learning continues at home. We also realise that there are some issues around being able to access Purple Mash. This is due to the huge demand the site is experiencing at the moment. Please bear with us. If the site is busy it may be a case of doing something different then logging on at a different time.

The staff are now allocated into teams so each week a different group of teachers/support staff will be in school. During this time we are caring for key worker pupils as well as setting work for pupils at home. Teachers are also working from home to set and review the work the pupils are doing. Over the next week or so we will contact any family where we can see you have not accessed work on Purple Mash to see if we can help resolve any problems. Teachers will also be adding a personalised message to pupil's Purple Mash accounts so we can keep in touch and help resolve any issues.

There are many other ideas for supporting the learning at home on our Twitter account – you do not need to be a Twitter account holder to read these. We use Twitter as a quick and easy way of passing information on to parents. The internet is also awash with ideas to support parents with home teaching ideas. Included in the pack we sent home was a list of websites that offer educational resources. Times Table Rock stars could also be used daily.

We will continue to send home resources but if Purple Mash is playing up, please don't stress, argue or fall out. Instead, cuddle on the sofa and watch a film. Share a book and talk about it. Bake and cook together. Paint pictures (put a rainbow in your window so other children can see them), create and make. Play board games. Do science experiments. Travel the world via Google Maps. Go on virtual tours of museums, art galleries and zoos (Edinburgh Zoo have live web cams at the moment). Look at old photos and tell stories about family members, some of whom your children may never have met. Write letters to those you cannot visit at the moment.

Try to have fun spending time together. How our children feel during this time will stay with them for the rest of their lives, far longer than any worksheet or online learning task.

We hope that you are all safe and well.

Mrs. N Haslam-Davis  
Headteacher

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The registered office is at Queen Elizabeth Drive, Corringham, Essex, SS17 7TG

