

HOME LEARNING TOP TIPS

Dear Parent / Carer

As Sacriston Academy closes on Friday for our children, we wanted to let you know that we will do everything we can to support you in the weeks and months ahead. Your children are our extended families five days a week, and we are going to miss and worry about them in equal measure. These are hard times for us all, so please be kind to each other. We are all in this together.

We are sure that right now you will be wondering how you are going to keep your children engaged, learning, healthy and happy whilst school is closed. So, we thought we would share some top tips for you in a humorous way. Remember with any new job, you will be finding your feet the first few days.

1. WHY LEARN?

Children work better when they understand 'why.' It helps them to understand the task and why they are being asked to do school work. Each home's 'why' will be different, but you could just explain '*because when we go back to school we need to be up to date with learning.*' Share your 'why' with your children. Now you have managed to get your small class on board, it's time to set the class rules, e.g. no talking over each other, phone use, and where the staffroom is – you will need a break!

2. PLAN AND PRIORITISE

Give yourself and your child realistic goals. Trying to conquer everything in one go will only make your child and you anxious. Plan for Maths and English – the core curriculum. There are many ways you can be creative with this: film a video blog each day written by your child, watch Horrible Histories or Blue Planet, bake and look carefully at measuring ingredients. The list is endless. And don't worry Ofsted have cancelled inspections so you won't be receiving a visit any time soon.

3. ROUTINES

As teachers, we can tell you from experience, your child loves structure. Discuss with your child what the timetable of the day will look like and what they think should be included in the curriculum on what days. Allocate a specific place they will be working – their new classroom. Try and keep some links to our school day, such as setting times for break and lunch. There will be ample opportunity in the evening for downtime. See if you can co-ordinate learning time with friends – video call, this will help them regain some of the social elements by communicating with others and having a virtual playtime.



4. TEACHING TIPS

Children work best when they are praised. Champion their progress and share their achievements with your friends and family. Get your child to teach you what they are learning, this helps them to remember it more effectively. Ask your child to plan the lesson / learning and then enjoy taking part. You have a great opportunity to inspire your child to foster a lifelong love of learning.

5. JOB DESCRIPTION

Teaching is a hugely rewarding job; you must always look after the well-being of your class. You will take on multiple roles from first aider to chef, PE coach to cleaner. This is the dream job you never expected. Stay positive, don't be too harsh on you or your class and remember ...your best will be enough.

6. CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

As teachers we are always on the look out for new ideas and activities, opportunities to enhance our own and our class's learning. That's where we can help. We will do our best to give you advice and guidance when needed, set tasks for children to complete on a weekly basis, monitor how well they are doing online and most importantly be here to help if you need it.

Could I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure our children will continue to have access to learning. Despite very difficult circumstances, they have maintained a professional and calm approach ensuring each child feels safe. They are quite simply incredible, and I am unbelievably proud to lead such a fantastic team as well as having the best pupils in the world!

We are going to miss all our families incredibly over the coming weeks, listening to stories, hearing our children laugh, watching their faces as they achieve something for the first time. We will miss being inspired by them, laughing at their jokes and supporting them through difficult times. What we can promise you is when the time is right, we will be at school ready and waiting to welcome you all back.

Sacriston Academy is a family. Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.

Please take good care of yourselves in the coming weeks and months and stay strong. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Yours sincerely

Annalei Bartlett

Headteacher