**Matt Talbot Nursery School**



**‘Happy at Play,**

**Learning all Day’**

**Home Learning Policy**



**Signed: (Chair) Date: January 2021**

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**Home Learning Policy**

**Specific Aims**

* To outline expectations of home learning from January 2021

**Who is the policy applicable to?**

* All children including those of key workers/vulnerable children who have applied for full-time supervised learning

**Home learning for pupils that are not able to attend school due to the current lockdown**

As nursery education is non statutory and teaching strategies in nursery are practical with mainly hands-on play, a full teaching programme cannot be delivered to individual children who are learning remotely. Where and when applicable, staff will share photos, links, videos, etc. and this will provide starting points for parents to encourage discussion and to provide learning opportunities at home. Home links in this way are to continue the social and pastoral links so the child will maintain connections with nursery school which will help them to settle back in on their return. We are fully aware that these are exceptional times and would like to make it clear that **the completion of work is not compulsory and that this document seeks to inform and guide families and not impose expectations.** Each family is unique and because of this, should approach home learning in a way which suits their individual needs.

**Family (pupil/parent/guardian) Role**

It is a recommendation that, where possible, families and children engage with the learning opportunities set as it provides a basis for continuation of learning and language development. We also would recommend that each ‘school day’ maintains a small amount of structure and routine. In addition to this, we encourage parents to allow:

* Their child to engage in quality periods of uninterrupted play;
* A mix of independent play and engagement with an adult in play, which is a quality way to develop speech, language and conversation;
* A daily story or reading time before bedtime which has been proven to aid development and would be highly recommended;
* Children to engage in daily routines such as tidying, helping to set the table, help to put shopping away, gardening, feeding and caring for pets and sorting laundry (pairing and matching socks, folding, pegging washing etc);
* Children time to develop independence skills such as dressing, putting on and taking off shoes, learning how to do zips and buttons, and lots of practice with independent hand washing and toileting;
* Opportunities for counting in a real context for example, 2 scoops of pet food into the bowl, 4 spoons on the table for breakfast;
* Opportunities for children to write, draw or mark-make which are recommended at all times. Notebooks, drawing books, chalk boards, pens, pencils and crayons available are a valuable part of learning. No formal letter writing is a requirement but allowing children to make marks freely during their play is recommended.

Each week, staff will post several activities. These can be shared with your child and completed at your convenience. Should you be working from home, please fit these around yours and your child’s schedule and do not feel pressured to complete these whilst you are working also. The involvement of other siblings and family members is also encouraged and can actually help to enhance a learning experience.

Work can be shared via the inbox on the seesaw family app or via school email matttalbotnurseryschool1@hotmail.co.uk

Parents can photograph children’s work or play experiences and provide a message to outline how the children enjoyed it or their experience. The staff will then approve or comment on the work submitted. We may also upload some of these photographs on our school website. This can be really valuable in sharing the learning but also keeping strong connections between the children and school.

Should accessing work or Seesaw be an issue, parents should contact school promptly by email and alternative arrangements can be discussed.

**Teacher Expectations**

* Teachers will plan learning opportunities and prompts that are relevant to the curriculum focus for nursery and will support this through photos or video clips, links and tasks for home learners.
* Any resources used, including websites and worksheets, where possible, will be shared with home learners via Seesaw. In most cases these will be accessible and practical activities using resources that most families will have available at home. Home Learning packs will be distributed to each child, through our ‘Getting Ready to Learn’ initiative and we encourage you to use these. Remember, a drawing or child’s representation is usually much more valuable than a colouring sheet. If you have no paper, using salt, flour or chocolate powder on a contrasting coloured tray and using a finger to draw or write can provide great mark making opportunities

**Home Learning**

* Staff will be available on See Saw from 9.00-3.30 each day. Outside of these times, we will try our best to respond as soon as possible but it may be the following day.
* Staff are working a rota system of one-week remote learning, followed by one week in school supervision (for those children of keyworker/vulnerable children) so your query may be answered by any member of staff on home learning duty.
* Remember all staff are working either at home or in school throughout this lockdown. They are not off. They are working hard to support all children in their learning, despite often having to juggle their own child-care, so please be patient and be aware this is a steep learning curve for staff moving onto a digital platform.
* If you have any specific questions or concerns, please email the Principal

**Guidance on using Seesaw**

This will be the main forum for communication between school and home during the pandemic. Teachers will be expected to post updates or important information as the need arises.

* Staff will respond, within reason, promptly to requests for support from families at home during normal daytime school hours.
* Families must not expect responses to seesaw outside school hours in line with teacher’s working conditions. Any urgent contact, for example, to inform us of a family emergency or child protection issue, please email the school. This will be monitored by the Principal.
* Staff have the right to switch off devices after working hours and are advised to avoid checking seesaw in the evenings and on weekends.
* Aggressive or abusive messages will not be tolerated. If a parent sends an aggressive message or a complaint, staff should refer this to the principal. For formal complaints, these should be sent directly via email to the principal.

**Areas of Learning Supported**

All work and learning prompts provided will support our Curricular Guidance for Preschool Education set out by DE and CCEA. The areas of learning are as follows.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Early Language Development

Early Mathematical Experiences

Physical Development

The Arts

The World Around Us

Work provided will also consider children with additional needs and Special Educational Needs where a child has a Personal Learning Plan.

Matt Talbot Nursery School may share links and learning ideas from outside agencies and other professionals where they feel they are beneficial and developmentally appropriate.

Policy Developed January 2021