



George Betts Primary Academy
West End Avenue
Smethwick
B66 1RF

0121 558 0472
gbenquiries@gbshp.org

Shireland Hall Primary Academy
Montague Road
Smethwick
B66 4PW

0121 558 6331
shpenquiries@gbshp.org



The Federation of George Betts and Shireland Hall Primary Academies

Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lots of people are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and under pressure by everything that's happening in the world currently. As of last night, the Government told UK citizens to stay at home!

We have received a few queries asking for advice, as well as genuine concerns, about the work being sent home for your child. Hopefully these points will help:

- 1) This is not homeschooling. This is, at best, distance learning. In reality, it's everyone trying their hardest to accommodate a new way of living for the next few months.
- 2) You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything sent home and is going to spend the entire period playing in the dirt, or baking, or watching TV or playing board games then that is your choice. That is your right. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.
- 3) Schools had no notice, no preparation time and we were NOT told to 'continue to plan lessons as normal and just send them home' – that's NOT possible. If it were, we would all be out of a job.
- 4) It is absolutely not possible to facilitate distance learning with a primary aged child and work from home at the same time. If you're trying to do that, stop now. You can certainly have activities where your child learns, but your focus is your job, and survival. Again, unprecedented.

So, a few FAQs:

- *My school has sent home lots of physical work. Pages and pages, hours and hours. How am I supposed to get through it all?!*

You're not, don't try. Your child's teacher gathered things to send home so that you have an idea, if you chose to do so, of the kinds of things that are appropriate for your child's age and ability. The advice is that, if you are intending for your child to be doing learning activities, you should aim for no more than an hour or two.

- *My school keeps sending home links with more work. How do I make it stop?*

See above. These are suggestions and ideas because the school is worried they're not offering enough. Use them if they suit you, don't if they don't.



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Leading Parent
Partnership Award



George Betts Primary Academy
West End Avenue
Smethwick
B66 1RF

0121 558 0472
gbenquiries@gbshp.org

Shireland Hall Primary Academy
Montague Road
Smethwick
B66 4PW

0121 558 6331
shpenquiries@gbshp.org



The Federation of George Betts and Shireland Hall Primary Academies

Tuesday 24th March 2020

- Someone in my child's class has everything done and we've barely started. Will they fall behind?

Even if everything were equal in terms of support, time and number of children (which it's not) all children learn at different rates. In every class, there's a wide range of levels in all subjects, there's different paces and there are many children working on differentiated levels of work. It's almost impossible for teachers to differentiate at the moment, so you don't have to do it either.

Your child will not fall behind. This is all revision and reminder work. If children could all learn new concepts without specific teaching, we wouldn't need teachers. They will cover all of this again, multiple times.

-I'm having trouble accessing Google Classroom where can I get help?

Please do not worry about this but continue to check the [home learning site](#) for help. This site is constantly being updated as we iron out teething issues.

- I'm not doing any work with my kids. All they're doing is building Lego, cooking and playing outside.

All of this is learning - very valuable learning. Give yourself and them a break.

- How can I get three different lots of work done with 3 different kids of different ages?

You can't, stop trying. If they're old enough, try to get them to do little bits independently. Otherwise try to do something they can all engage with, reading a story together, some free writing, baking etc.

You are doing enough. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for positive mental health. Don't let this be something that stresses you. Only you can control that by accepting it is in your circle of control, you are the primary educator and this is all your call.

Mr A Shephard

Executive Principal



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

2017-2020