

Roundthorn & Coppice Primary Academies

Roundthorn Primary Academy

Roundthorn Road
Oldham
OL4 5LN

roundthorn@focus-trust.co.uk

Coppice Primary Academy

Burlington Avenue
Oldham
OL8 1AP

coppice@focus-trust.co.uk

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To our wonderful children (and families - please read this together),

Hello! How are you all? I hope you are keeping well.

I need to write to you all, to let you know about some things that I have been thinking about since our schools closed last week.

First of all, we are all missing you and the things we do together in school. The staff are finding this whole situation very strange and I'm sure that you are too. None of us has ever been in a situation anything like this so we are all learning how to cope with it and what we should do for the best. That means we might all make some mistakes or get things a bit wrong. That's normal.

None of us really know how long this will last for; it could be a long time but it won't last forever. What is really important for now is that we stay at home with our families and this is what I want to write about...

Because you are not in school, we have tried to give you and your parents some learning resources, either on paper or on our website. There are also lots of things that you can do, being posted online: Facebook, Twitter and the school websites, for example. Like you, we are anxious that you are missing out on learning so want to do our best to keep you busy with Maths, English, History, PE and more!

But there is a problem. Being at home with your parents / family is very different to being in school. Although your parents and families are very capable of teaching you many things, it's just not the same as being in school. Also, I think that you probably want your parents to be your parents at a difficult time like this – to talk to you, listen to you, play with you, love you – am I right?

If I am right, then learning at home will be very different to learning at school.

To help you all, here are some things that I have been thinking about and working on with my two boys. Joe is 14 (Y9) and Harry is 10 (Y6).

Routines

Do try to get into a routine. Children like routines, don't you? (Even if you sometimes pretend that you don't). There are lots of '*homeschooling timetables*' out there online; some have good ideas, but we are not setting you one of these – it is up to you and your family to work out what your routines look like.

The learning menu

We will continue to upload learning ideas and links to the websites. Think of this as a menu. When you go to a restaurant, you don't order everything on the menu. Or at least, I hope not! Pick the things that you want to do and can do. Do some on your own and do some with your family. In a restaurant, you might order a starter, main and dessert – try to do this with your choices – pick different things. I sometimes like to try a new thing on the menu. This is how I discovered that I love eating hummous! Maybe **you** could pick something new to try?

My top 3 things to do and never stop doing when you're at home

1. **Read.** Read books, blogs, magazines, short stories, read your favourite books again, listen to stories online. Please keep reading!
2. **Talk.** Talk to each other about things. Discuss how you are feeling. Talk and laugh whilst you are playing a game with each other. Tell jokes.
3. **Exercise.** Keep active, indoors and out (within the rules, of course). Your body and mind both need to be active. One helps the other.

These are my top 3 at the moment. I might change my mind in a week...or maybe not...who knows?

Use this as an opportunity

I like this little word puzzle: **opportunityisnowhere**

What does it say?

oppportunity is **nowhere**? oppportunity is **now here**?

What opportunities are now here?

Talk to each other about doing something that you may not have done (or would not have done as much) if this hadn't have happened. For example, my family have played more board games, like Scrabble and Monopoly Empire. Harry has made us a lovely fruit salad. Joe helped me to make a vegetable curry following a recipe from Mrs. Ahmed at Coppice. You might not be able to do these things

but may have different ideas. Children, maybe you could teach your parents something – I bet most of them would not know how to do coding – maybe teach them to use Kodable! Or how to do 'Cat's Cradle.' (I've seen some of you doing this in the playground.)

Finally, I don't have all of the answers in this difficult situation, but I do have a question...

Would you be able to write to me or your teachers and tell us what you have been doing or thinking about? You could tell your teachers what was so great about being in their class this year – they'd like to hear that. Or you can tell us anything else you want to.

Send your letters to the office email or you could post a handwritten letter to Coppice (Roundthorn is still closed, so best not to send them there). Addresses are at the top of this letter. Don't forget to include your name and class.

We will read every single letter and it will help us all to keep connected. You might like to know that we are thinking of other ways to keep connected, including having a YouTube channel. Watch this space...

Thank you for reading my letter. Now have a chat with each other about what you would like to do.

We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Look after each other and be kind.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mr. Taylor