

#STRINGER LEARNING @HOME

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Dear carers and parents,

We hope this newsletter finds you and your families well in these strange and unprecedented times.

Whilst school remains closed, we want to keep in touch with you over the coming weeks to guide and help you support your children's learning at home. We are definitely in uncharted waters here and doing all we can to navigate these new and daunting ways of teaching and learning remotely. This is as new to us as it is to you but, rest assured, our Stringer staff are rising to the challenge; we are trying to avoid a knee-jerk reaction, taking our time to find a manageable and sustainable way of working. You will find out 10 Top Tips below; we are in this together.

In the first instance, as you know **we are using the SLG to post assignments** for all of our students; at the end of last week we also sent a document with screen shots explaining how to access this information from home. (If you are having trouble logging on please email ITSupport@dorothy-stringer.co.uk and our team will help where they can.) The work won't necessarily have to be completed online but this is where you'll find the instructions and resources. On Monday 23rd we sent you a **Daily Schedule for Home Learning** (thanks for the positive feedback -it seems this suggested structure was useful). Teachers have been asked to email their classes once a week to check in and answer any questions or queries they can – please, be patient as many of our staff who teach more than 200 children are now home-schooling their own children as well.

This is all a work in progress... we'd appreciate your feedback and ideas to help us adapt and amend expectations around **#StringerLearning@Home**. We'd also love to receive any photos of great work your children are producing at home to share in a gallery on our website; the aim is to encourage and engage others – peer support can still work whilst we're socially distancing. If you're happy to do so please email them to communications@dorothy-stringer.co.uk

Stay safe and keep in touch.

Top 10 Tips for #StringerLearning@Home

- You're not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. Experiment in the first week, then take stock. What's working and what isn't?
- Stick to our Daily Schedule for Home learning if and when you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas!
- Keep active – our PE department are posting excellent activities for you and your families to keep fit and healthy
- Stick the timetable up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day
- Some children will find adapting to remote home learning easier than others – encourage them to email their teachers if they're struggling
- Balance academic work with doing fun things – see our “50 things to do in isolation
- Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over. Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life.
- If you have a garden, use it regularly. If you don't, try to get out once a day as permitted by current government guideline (of course this might change)
- Look after your emotional and mental health – some excellent advice can be found on these 2 sites:
 - [Coronavirus and your wellbeing](#) – Mind.org
 - [Supporting young people's mental health during this period](#) – Anna Freud Centre