



UT VOCE ITA VITA

EXETER CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Nursery | Pre-Prep | Prep



ECS: Learning
@Home

Week 2 Updates

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This week's success is testament to all our teaching staff, pupils and crucially you at home who have continued to adapt so brilliantly and quickly to our new online way of working.

From the outset of this project, one of our main considerations was to find ways for the ECS community to remain connected and feel the normal security of school life. Of course, when we are at school, we have a multitude of events and people who help us to come together. From assemblies to Form Time, to services, to playtime, house music, sporting fixtures and chats with staff, every child knows that their wellbeing is being cared for.

We know that parental and family relationships are central to the wellbeing of children and it is no surprise that research shows that good family relationships contribute to improved mental wellbeing, resilience, good health and academic engagement. The same research tells us that schools play a pivotal role in this too and that together we can provide the love, security and connections that will set children up for their futures.

Our daily 8.50am Form Time meetings, assemblies, engagement activities and story time are all helping us to reunite as a community and support one another. Seeing your children this week engaging online, learning, having fun and settling into routines to keep them mentally and physically healthy has been inspiring.

We are here to support, encourage and engage with your children and you at this time. We would like you to continue to join in, ask questions, send us news and updates from wherever you are.

These are difficult times and everyone is calling on their reserves of resilience. The ECS community that now exists online, I hope, is a source of strength and comfort for all our families.

Please feel free to join us at 5.30pm on the Teams platform for training and a Q&A session. The session will be recorded and available on the team page just in case you are unable to join us.

Thank you for staying connected and being part of the ECS community.

Andy Bartlett



ECS: Learning
@Home
in action!

Obstacle Course

Keeping fit is an important thing to consider when working from home.

Last week we set pupils the challenge to build their own obstacle course. We were most impressed with what we saw in response, below are two notable contributions, enjoy!



Adam (Year 4) has made good use of his garden [Watch](#)

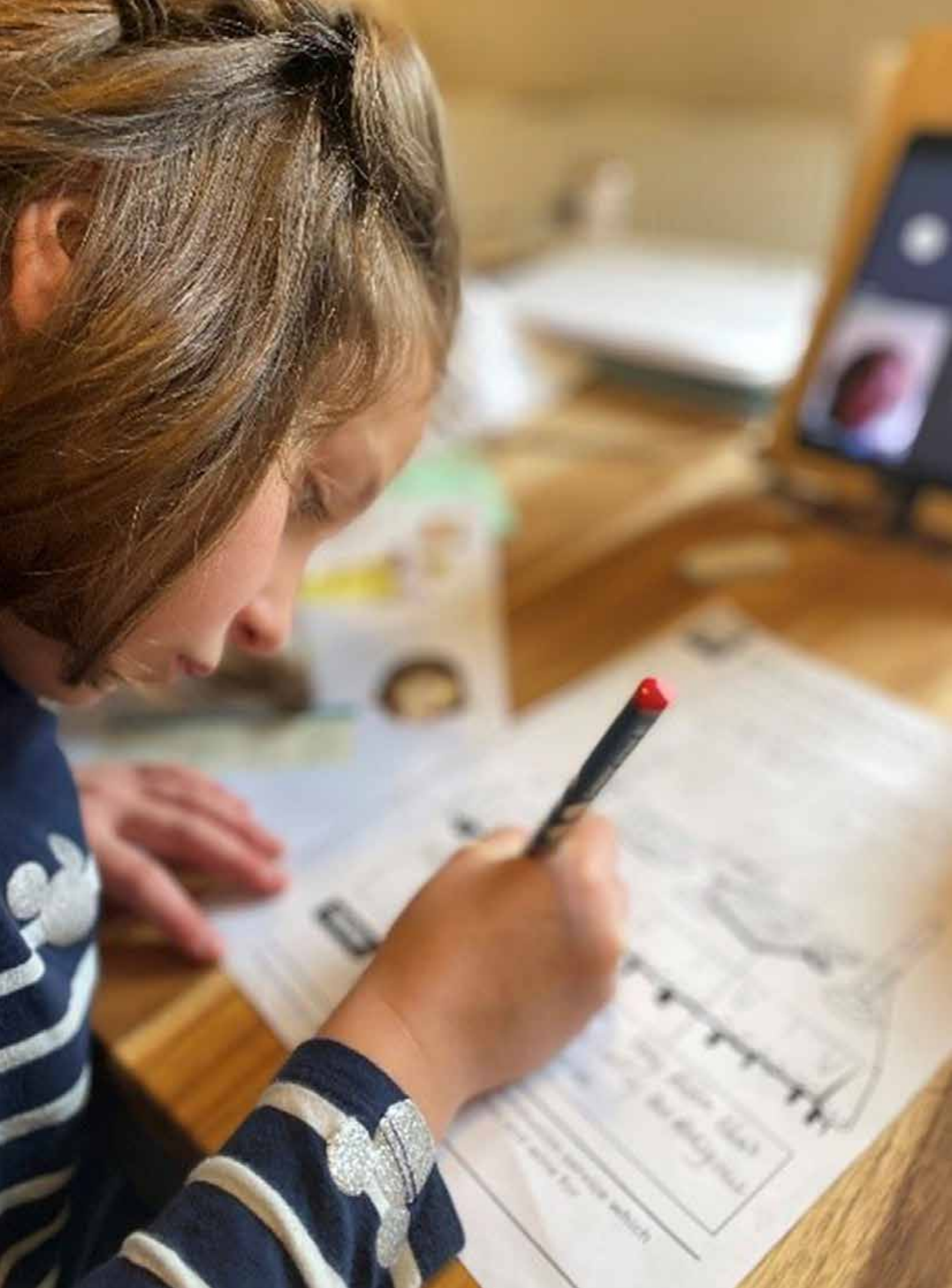


Ruari (Year 7) has turned his allotment in a challenging course [Watch](#)



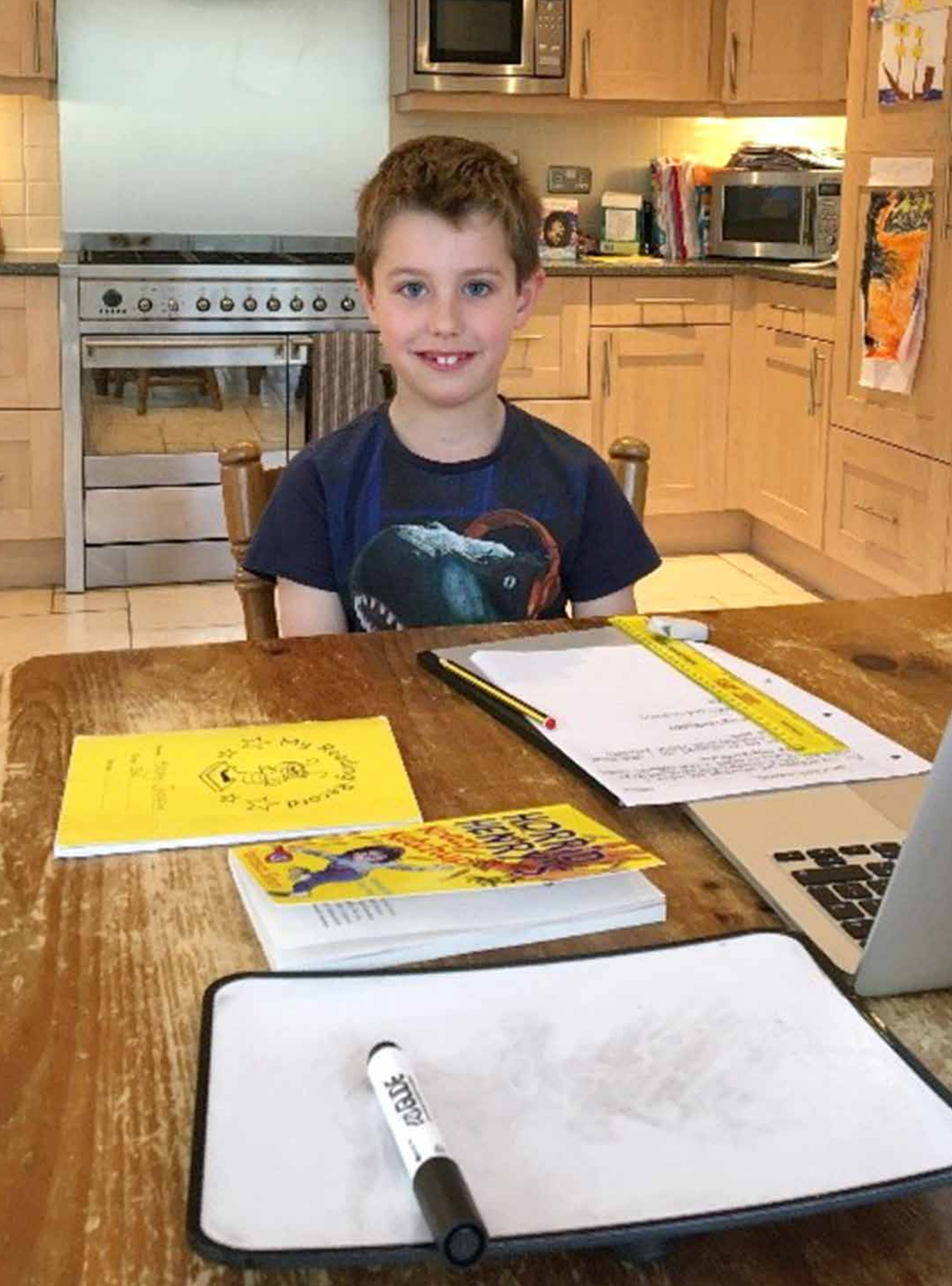
Listening to you

You asked...	We responded...
<p>How do we upload work?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training this evening will provide you with a demo on how to upload work • Briefly, you can upload a variety of documents or take a photo • Evernote scannable is a quick way to scan work: Evernote
<p>Why do we see a late/overdue notification for work?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please do not worry if an overdue notice appears • When using assignments, we are required to specify a hand-in date • We fully understand that you may not be able to hand work in according to the set deadline • Teachers have been asked to extend the hand in dates
<p>Could teachers be encouraged to post things that might have to be printed well in advance – it is the sort of thing we can try to get to in the evenings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We think this is a really important point and are working to get this right • We are working with teachers to help them post lesson work in advance and expect this to improve
<p>Sometimes we are finding that lessons are over complicated with lesson instructions in an Assignment, then a PowerPoint, one or several word docs, links to other sources and a pdf. Can we look to simplify this please?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We completely understand the difficulties in managing home learning • Our teachers are gaining more experience and confidence with their online practice and we are working to simplify content
<p>Can teachers be flexible about how work is completed? Sometimes we find it easier to work with pen and paper.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we are happy to support you at home and for you to decide the best way for your child's learning to be evidenced • The only thing we ask is to see what they have been doing so that we can continue to provide feedback and help them to improve



Listening to you

You asked...	We responded...
<p>Who do I contact if I need to get help quickly?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please contact me using my email address: a.bartlett@exetercs.org and Katharine Pearce: k.pearce@exetercs.org and we will get back to you straight away
<p>Can you help – the videos we are trying to watch are buffering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have reported issues relating to video download speed to our IT team • Buffering and slow download times are due to connection speeds in recipient homes • We will continue to ensure instructions are clear and detailed in case video content is not available at times in your homes
<p>We are finding it difficult to print pdf attachments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are aware that many families are using different computer systems and we will continue to provide multiple formats for documents to assist with printing
<p>Is it possible to run some parents' evenings this term?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't usually run parents' evenings in the Trinity Term, but we think it would be really beneficial to provide an opportunity for all parents to engage with teachers during this time. We are currently putting together some dates and times so that you can easily book a session and chat via our Teams platform. More details to follow in Week 3.
<p>We see that internal and external exams are scheduled this term. Could you provide some updates for these?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trinity Term is usually a time when we run both internal and external examinations/tests for pupils in Years 1-8. External progress tests in English and Maths for Years 1-7 will be rescheduled for when pupils return. Internal exams for Years 6 and 7 will also be rescheduled for when we return. • We will make sure we provide advanced notice for any rescheduled exams/tests and teacher assessments will continue to track pupil progress in all year groups. Pupils in Year 8 will sit Common Entrance and further details and support for how these will run remotely will be released in Week 3.
<p>Please can teachers upload less materials for lessons – it's proving hard to print everything</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, similar to above, we are working on simplifying lesson content and expect this to improve



Listening to you

You asked...	We responded...
<p>We think it's great that some work is being set away from the screen. We think it's important to have fun and we loved the obstacle course activity last week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So do we! We love seeing the amazing things your children are getting up to away from the screen • Their wellbeing and your happiness as a family means a lot to us and time away from the screen, we believe, helps!
<p>Are you going to be running School Council and other pupil groups still?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we will be announcing pupil voice events at the start of week 3
<p>We have been sent YouTube clips that we can't access using Google Chrome because it defaults to YouTube Kids clips. Any tips?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers have been notified about this problem and will try to use YouTube kids links
<p>What should we do if we are concerned about online safety?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please remind your children to talk to you about anything they see online that concerns them. We are here to help too. Here is a link to our Digital Safety Guidance booklet for this academic year: Read here
<p>We feel we are falling behind – what should we do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please contact your child's form tutor who will be happy to chat about ways we can support you • We understand the pressures on you at home and we will work with you

FAQ's Parent Training

We will be back next week following our live session this evening at 5.30pm.

Please use your child's O365 to login and join us for our live meeting on the Parent Training Team.



Rules and expectations when accessing ECS:Learning@Home

We hope that you enjoy and benefit from the Remote Learning Platform. It is important that all pupils follow a number of rules and expectations. These are set out below and are an extension to the usual School rules. Please read them carefully with your family members to make sure you understand what is expected of you as a member of the ECS on-line community.

By using the Remote Learning Platform you are agreeing to the following:

At all times you:

1. Will behave in accordance with our normal School rules: normal standards of behaviour, politeness and good manners apply
2. Will work hard and do your best
3. Will follow the instructions and guidance of the teacher at all times

Before the lesson/activity you:

4. Will use your calendar to see the timings of your lessons each day and try to be on time for lessons
5. Will get ready before the start of each lesson, with your books/files/pencil case etc
6. Will make sure you are appropriately dressed; explain to other members of the household that they should do the same
7. Will consider your 'work station' carefully:
 - a. you should be in a public area of the house (not in a bedroom with the door shut)
 - b. members of the lesson may see what's around/behind you: are you happy with this?

During a lesson/activity you:

8. Will not begin a lesson/meeting; you will wait for the teacher to do this
9. Will click 'join' once the teacher has started the lesson
10. Will keep your microphone and camera turned off ('muted') when joining a live lesson or assembly unless your teacher says otherwise
11. Will interact politely and respectfully: being in a digital classroom doesn't mean we don't expect high standards.
12. Will use the chat function (the stream on the right-hand side) appropriately:
 - a. to ask a question of the teacher (ask your question politely and once; please be patient and give the teacher the time to reply)
 - b. to answer a question if asked to do so



13. Will remember that all chats and all lessons/activities may be recorded
14. Will not record any part of the lesson, communication with teachers, any video links, or take any screen shots
15. Will not mute or unmute others, nor 'request control': this is to be done by the teacher only
16. Will try your best to hand in any work that your teacher asks you to

At the end of a lesson/activity you:

17. Will leave the meeting (clicking the red phone icon) when asked to; you will not continue chatting after the end of a lesson
18. Will not begin or join any meetings or chats that are not timetabled activities begun by a teacher

Some additional notes

- Teachers will be available to chat 'live' during their usual timetabled lesson times. This will allow pupils to ask questions about their work. Pupils can also post questions at any time, which teachers will be able to answer during their timetabled lessons
- We do not expect you to do Prep or extra work at the end of the School day. Of course, you can finish some work off during this time if you would like to. Year 8 pupils will be sitting Common Entrance after half-term, so may wish to take advantage of the opportunity to do some revision on some evenings
- If there is something you are worried about you should do just what you would do at School: tell a member of staff. If it's about your lesson you can use the chat stream if you want. If it's something more personal that you need to share, you can write a message in the 'Class Notebook' section of your team page. Only you and your teacher can see these messages.



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