



25th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Screen-Free Fridays

Following on from my recent ClassDojo post, I would like to explain, in a bit more detail, the purpose of 'Screen-free Fridays' and how it fits into our curriculum. Due to the remote learning provision, we are aware that children will be spending more and more time on screens – far more than they would if we were in school. The rationale behind 'Screen-Free Friday', is to dedicate one afternoon a week to non-screen based, open-ended and independent learning, where the children can use their imaginations, creativity and thinking skills, whilst learning new skills or applying what they know in a different way.

As you know, we have been reviewing our curriculum and making the necessary changes to match our intent of developing independent learners. These Friday afternoons should support this. The idea is that each child chooses an activity, or two for older pupils, in which they would like to develop or apply their skills.

Evidence has shown that by guiding children through the processes used to plan, monitor, and assess their understanding and performance, they are more able to overcome future obstacles in learning, improve performance and develop more positive attitudes to support future learning. Therefore, we are asking that the children should ask themselves the questions listed below, whilst completing the tasks. For the older children, this should be recorded on a piece of paper for them to refer to. For the younger children, this should be discussed with an adult or a sibling.

Before you choose an activity, ask yourself the following questions:

- Why do I want to choose this activity?
- What skills do I have to be able to do the task?
- What new skills will I learn?

During the activity:

- Am I on the right track?
- What can I do differently?
- Do I need to ask for help?
- What help do I need?

After the activity:

- What worked well?
- What could I have done better?
- What skills have I learnt?
- Can I use these skills in another task?

When the activity is complete, the children will need to send a picture of what they have done, adding some explanation of the new skills they have grasped. This should be sent to their class teacher via Teams. This will allow the class teacher to review the learning and share it with the rest of the class the following week, allowing for a class discussion around new skills and suggest improvements for next time.

Your child's class teacher will share the week's Screen-free Friday activities with you when they share the timetable. We hope that Screen Free Friday will give children much-welcome time off screens and also an opportunity to be creative independent learners.

Mrs O Webster
Assistant Headteacher