 **Class 1, Farway C of E Primary School**  

Dear Parents and children of Class 1,

Welcome back to the start of the Summer Term! I do hope you are all enjoying your time together within this rather unusual situation. The weather over the last few weeks has been incredible and I hope it continues for a little longer, so you can continue exercising and exploring outside in your gardens.

Over the next few weeks, those of us still in school are going to be ‘travelling’ on a virtual tour around the world, exploring various countries where different festivals would normally be happening at this time. Although we are all staying at home, to keep safe and save the NHS, our minds are still free to travel, imagine and explore!

Our first stop will be Thailand, for their Water festival, Songkran. This festival would normally take place between the 13th and 15th April. Due to this very fortunate weather, we thought it a fabulous time to explore this festival further. It is a festival to celebrate the arrival of spring, using water to wash away negativity and celebrate new life. Flocks of people would, normally gather in the streets of Thailand to take part in a large water fight!!

What a fabulous idea! Maybe you would like to launch your home-learning, in just the same way!

Home learning:

I know many of you may be concerned about returning to complete regular schoolwork after the Easter holiday. Please be reassured that this is a challenge for everyone (including me!) but children do adapt quickly. Below are a series of tips to try and support you, but **please remember, they are just suggestions! Do what works for you and for your child or children...**

1. **Establish a timetable that suits your family**

Just because someone you know has posted an impressively, colourful timetable, detailing what their child or children will be learning each hour of the day, does not mean this will work for you! A timetable is useful and for some necessary, but it must work for your family. Will your children learn best in the early morning? Then do more academic work then and focus on play later, or vice versa if you are night owls.

1. **Balance online time with offline**

You don’t need to be online all day to get a good education. Yes, there are some fantastic resources online and can be really good fun for the children to access but try to balance online work with good old-fashioned books and practical, hands-on challenges that can really get your child engaged and motivated. For example: finding Thailand on a globe, or in an atlas; acting out your favourite story together; building a temple out of Lego or recycled materials.

1. **Little and often**

You might not have time to spend five hours teaching your child, especially if you have more than one! But here’s the thing: you don’t have to if they’re getting some one-to-one time. Enjoy the fact that you can spend some time explaining that particular maths concept to them, in a way there might not have been time at school.

1. **Value what you do**

You have an awful lot to offer your children. You know your children better than anyone else. Chances are you know what motivates them and excites them in their learning, so use this to your advantage and tailor your approach accordingly.

1. **Remember to relax**

The entire population are in this together. Your children aren’t going to miss out. If it all gets too much, curl up on the settee and read a book together!

Finally, I just want to send you all my very best wishes. Please keep yourselves as safe as you can during this challenging period. I am missing seeing you all and your fabulous children. I shall look forward to seeing them, as soon as this is all over!

 Kindest Regards,

 Mrs Jackson

