



# THE SOHO SCOOP

## News and Views from Soho Parish



### Headline

Hello to all our families from what seems like a great distance. I can certainly say this has been the most unusual and testing term of my teaching career, and I suspect this is true too for many of our staff and parents. Yet there is an opportunity here to build stronger families and a stronger community, even while physically distant, finding new ways to communicate and care for each other.

While our key worker provision carries on as part of the south cluster schools, so does our home learning, with staff and pupils staying in touch in a variety of ways: through home learning activities, email, phone calls to some families and our youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJXwyyDZwuCgZsu8PJbbcdw> Please do look out for our weekly 'assembly' and 'Friday catch up', alongside a range of suggested home learning activities and book readings by our staff.

We will also be launching our new website at the start of the summer term, and will use this to showcase pupils' home learning, so that children can keep in touch with what their friends have been up to. We'll let you know when the grand launch is happening.

Please do keep in touch. As we develop our communication with families at this difficult time, we would like to hear how everyone is doing, how you're finding the home learning and if you have any suggestions for 'remote activities' we can engage in to keep our community together. Do feel free to send these to any member of staff, including me. We can't promise to respond immediately – personally I am also caring for my children and supporting their home learning – but we will listen, think and get back to you as soon as we can.



### A range of opinions

Many parents have written to say that they felt reassured by my letter which explained that 'home schooling' is not expected of them. Other parents have written to say they would like a full schedule provided including blocks of live streamed lessons. Inevitably there will be a range of opinions on the matter and schools must find the best route for their pupils, keeping their well-being and safety paramount.

### Expectations and format

At present, teachers are sending at least three maths and three English activities per week, with a list of other activities which can be done in any order and at a time to suit each family.

We appreciate that it is sometimes difficult to locate specific tasks and that it can feel like a lot of emails on a Monday morning. Therefore, Robyn is trialling Google Classroom at present and, should this be successful, we will roll this out to other years. The benefits to this platform are that teachers can upload work and children can 'submit' assignments. For those without printers it is handy as children can work directly on the computer. For those without enough pcs for all the home workers, printing is still possible! In addition, short video clips explaining the lesson can be added by teachers or uploaded from other websites.

### **Other resources**

We are also trialling a range of platforms for learning, such as Purple Mash, which have been made available for free. Please look out for your child's login, but don't be overwhelmed. Your teacher will point out to you which resources will be useful for your child. I note that this morning the BBC have launched a huge range of resources for all year groups and that they have worked with teaching resource providers such as White Rose, who deliver mastery lessons and have a growing range of video lessons available. I will keep you posted as we find out how this will work.

### **How can my child keep up and cover the curriculum?**

It is important to reiterate that parents will not be able to recreate the learning that would have been done at school from home and that teachers will not be able to deliver the lessons they would have taught. Teaching is a skill and a profession and we are rightly proud that this is something our teachers do well when present with a whole class of children. Distance learning will never compare. Even I, as a qualified and experienced teacher, cannot ensure that my children will learn as well as they would have done in school. I don't have the detailed knowledge of their own personal journey through the curriculum that their teachers do, nor the fully formed programme of learning prepared that their teachers would have been able to deliver in school, with the appropriate resources.

When we return to school we will carry out comprehensive assessments (not tests) to find out where children are in their learning and from this we will plan how to address any gaps that groups and individuals may have. By that time, I would expect there also to be government guidance as to curriculum expectations and national plans for 'catching up' as necessary.

### **Live streaming**

On this note, I want to be clear that we will not be 'live streaming' lessons. While 'Zoom' and 'Teams' and other video conferencing software are excellent for adult meetings and possibly university teaching, it has not been widely used at primary age. This means appropriate protocols and policies have not been developed. All the teaching unions advise against it, especially from teachers' homes. Due to privacy, GDPR and safeguarding reasons, Soho Parish will not be providing live video tutorials. If the schools continue to be closed longer term, we will continue to evaluate the literature and advice on this and it will be subject to review.

I know that some families are using video streaming technology to communicate with each other and I am pleased that you have found a way to stay in touch. However, in line with

our e-safety recommendations, I would ask all families to observe the following guidelines to keep their children safe online:

- Children should be accompanied or observed by an adult when using a computer, especially when interacting with others via video stream.
- The instigator of the video stream must ensure that appropriate safety measures have been taken. It is very easy for these streams to be 'hacked' and inappropriate and even pornographic material can 'pop up'.

Thank you to all parents who have invited our staff to take part in zoom conferences. Unfortunately, I have had to instruct staff not to do so, but they will find other ways of staying in touch.

### How can I structure the day?

If you are in need of structure, I attach below my own home learning timetable. Please be aware that I have not always been able to follow this and some days we have done more and some days less than stated.

However, my children enjoy the structure and even asked for it on the weekend! I or my husband are fully present with the children during the three one hour long lessons (although they know I keep my phone on and take important calls). Everyone's circumstances are different, so please don't take this as an instruction.

Single parents or those on their own due to their partner being a key worker and parents of children with SEN would certainly need to amend this. Children in reception and Y1 should not be expected to sit for an hour's learning. My little one does 20 minutes and then some play dough or colouring / cutting.

9.00-9.30	P.E. ( <i>we do Joe Wicks, but Laura sent out some excellent alternatives if like me you find he's starting to grate</i> ).
9.30-10.30	Maths (on some days Science). Usually only 30-40 minutes of Maths worksheets from school and then 20 minutes of Prodigy maths computer game.
10.30-11.00	Break (in garden). This could also be reading or drawing in a sunny spot.
11.00-12.00	English (on some days Humanities). Y6 and Y4 child usually manage 45-60 minutes of writing or reading comprehension, either from their school or downloaded from Twinkl.
12.00-1.00	Lunch and play (in garden).
1.00-2.00	Digital downtime / Adults work
2.00-3.00	Arts (could include painting, singing, cooking, project work)
3.00-3.30	Independent Reading
3.30-4.00	Walk (some days only)
4.00-6.30	Free time. This is when adults work and expect not to be interrupted.

Yesterday I had a free school meals vouchers crisis and had to abort the art for the afternoon. The children got some bonus digital downtime and I didn't beat myself up! We are all doing what we can. Parents should be proud of themselves for what they are achieving in the most challenging of circumstances.

## Autism Awareness Week: 30<sup>th</sup> March- 5<sup>th</sup> April

This year, World Autism Awareness Week is taking place from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March until Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of autism. Whilst our school community can not be physically together to learn more and celebrate our similarities and differences, we can still do so remotely. Please find links and resources below, which you can use at home with your children.



**National  
Autistic  
Society**

KS1 Sesame Street Meet Julia:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKCdV20zLMs>

KS2 Amazing Things Happen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-CRo>

<https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week.aspx>

Emma (Y5 Parent) has stepped up to Walk for autism and will 10,000 steps a day for 8 days and fundraising to help change people on the autism spectrum. She has asked that the soho help make her steps count and support her efforts by donating any amount if they can, big or small.

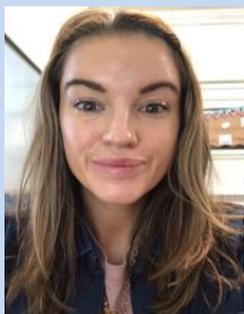
*Louise*

be walking  
the lives of  
community

help make her steps count and support her efforts by donating any amount if they can, big or small.

<https://www.walkforautism.co.uk/fundraisers/emmaryan1069>

## Meet the Soho Staff: Emma Brunjes

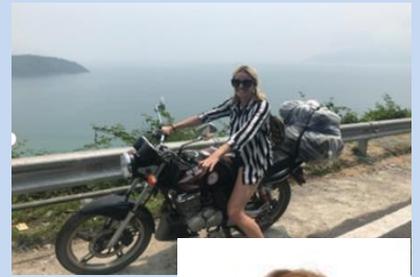


Hello all! After teaching in Scotland for two years I decided a move to London was what I wanted. I have now been at Soho Parish since 2017 and being part of the Soho family has made moving to London much easier. I am now the year 4 teacher but have taught year 5 the past two years. I am the computing curriculum co-ordinator and enjoy using ICT across different subjects to enhance learning. My other specialist subject is PE and I am

passionate about getting the children of Soho Parish fit. Year 4 will tell you about my fitness sessions. I really enjoy teaching maths and I am part of the borough Maths Hub. It's been fantastic to see the confidence children grow in using the mastery approach to learning maths.



When I'm not working at Soho I love keeping fit and running. I have run London marathon twice but decided that was enough and now just run for fun. I love exploring exhibitions and usually spend my weekends seeing what is on in London. I love the theatre and working



at Soho makes it accessible to see so many amazing shows. My current favourite is 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'. My last passion is travel. I have been lucky enough to travel to lots of incredible places and my favourite place I have been to is Vietnam.



## Meet the Soho Staff: Lisa O'Malley

Ahoy to the Soho Parish Community! After I completed my teaching degree in Ireland, I set sail across the Emerald Isle for the bright lights of London. That is over seven years ago and I'm still here and loving it! I stumbled across this gem of a school over a year ago now and still can't believe a space like it exists here! It feels just like home, everyone looks out for one another and everyone appreciates the talented, kind and engaged children that are lucky enough to attend Soho Parish!



Having spent time in Lower Key Stage Two teaching year 3, this is now my second year teaching in year 2. I am so grateful for the enthusiastic class I have, along with fantastic team members; Donna and Rabeya. We all work so hard to ensure each child reaches their full potential and am grateful to the parents for all the support they have shown us.

Outside of school, I love reading, walking and travelling. I always have my kindle with me to ease the commute on the tube and depending on how tired I am, I try to get off a few stops early and walk some of the way home. Like most people, I love holiday time and when I am not back in Ireland visiting my family, I try to go somewhere I've never been before. One of my favourite holidays was visiting Israel and touring Jerusalem. It was such a vibrant city, steeped in history and culture-a must see if you haven't already been!

