Top 10 tips for remote learning for primary school children.

1. Set a routine daily and stick to it. Try to keep it as close to the school routine as possible. Get the children up and dressed, have their breakfast and know what time their lessons will begin and end. Remember that there are sometimes 28 children in a class so to have one to one teaching they do not need to be working for 7 hours a day. Cut it by about half and you will still be covering as much as they would in school.
2. Children thrive on routine and many in primary school follow a visual timetable. Create your own school timetable and display it somewhere . In many primary schools pupils complete Numeracy and Literacy in the mornings and other subjects such as P:E in the afternoon? Work with your child /children and work out what is best for them.
3. Create a designated home learning space for your child away from all distractions. Turn off the television and choose a space preferably at the kitchen table or if that has too many disruptions with other family members entering and interrupting, a dining room table or a desk – not their bed ! set up this space with everything they need to learn and study.
4. Take breaks between lessons. Parents are the first educators of their own children. Engage in all the activities your children love. Incorporate some material from school into their lessons but enjoy the time together painting, crafting, reading or even baking.
5. Reach out to the teacher. Follow the digital remote learning plan they will send you. Keep communication channels free between your child’s class teacher. If you are unsure of something use the school’s chosen online platforms to communicate. Check the school’s website regularly for information.
6. Use online resources and make their use purposeful. Most schools have links to online learning on their school website. Make sure that you have the passwords for any apps the school has bought and your child can access their My School C2k learning. Use the Ipad to visit educational apps and videos. You tube has many tutorials of lessons if you are unsure of something.
7. Prioritise your child/children’s mental health. Be happy and try to stay motivated. Have some designated time for mindfulness activities. Take the children outdoors as much as possible for little boosts of active sessions running about outside and exploring nature.
8. Structure your child/children’s free time. Make time during the day to practise their musical instrument, play football or to watch television.
9. If your child is reluctant to complete set tasks from their class teacher, explain to their teacher the difficulties you are having and devise a form of positive reinforcement together. Their teacher may have a reward system in the class that could be used for all the children in the class.
10. Keep a diary. You will not get this time back again and it is a living History lesson. Enjoy your time together !