



St. George's School

A Church of England Academy

'Our vision is to be outstanding through the provision of consistent academic excellence within a caring, Christian community'
Headteacher: Mr G Warnock

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6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware over the past two weeks, the situation regarding schools has changed on an almost daily basis. Up to now, announcements by the Government have been made regarding schools being open in January, partially open, mass testing happening in schools and then not happening, exams going ahead and then cancelled. We are attempting to update you as quickly and with as much detail as possible.

What we know for sure is that schools will remain closed until at least February half term. We had two contingency plans in place for a short closure and a longer closure. We actioned the short closure plan, as per the Governments first announcement but on Monday night we had to change to our longer closure plan as per further announcements.

We have spent the last few days making sure that we are fully confident in our online learning mechanisms from Thursday. This has taken a day longer than originally anticipated but I hope you will understand that we want it to be as simple as possible, but academically worthwhile and comprehensive.

HOME LEARNING

I am aware that I have already outlined how our new home learning package is different from the last lockdown. However, I have included this again as it is important.

Beginning on Thursday, we will move to our new format of home learning, all of which will be delivered through google classroom, which our pupils are very familiar with.

- Every pupil will receive a set timetable so they know exactly what lesson they should be completing and at what time. This will be different from their usual timetable that they have been following in school. Pupils will continue to study the subjects that they had been doing at school, which matches their ability. Please accept classroom invitations for all subjects. Class codes may differ from your usual class code, please do not worry about this.
- High quality lessons will be planned and uploaded daily by all teachers and we expect pupils to be ready to access these at the designated period each day.
- Teachers will be delivering/setting new content every lesson using our curriculum booklets, video clips and pre-recorded live modelling by the teacher.
- Pupils will be able to ask teachers questions through the google classroom – "private comments" section.
- Pupils will submit 'turn in' completed work to google classroom or complete quizzes to test learning.

- Teachers will be checking and marking the work and giving a mix of individual and whole class feedback as per school policy.
- Teachers will contact pupils daily if the work is not complete.
- Parents will be notified weekly of lessons that have not been completed.
- Weekly worship, prayer and reflection will be emailed out to all pupils.
- We will also signpost families to a range of supportive materials that will supplement online learning (i.e. Oak national Academy, BBC Bitesize etc).

Pupils will be learning in this way for a significant period of time. Please click on the links after the timetable, these will lead you to instructions and videos on how to get started with home learning. If you require any further support after you have read the instructions and watched the videos then please use the following to contact us;

- General support - homelearning@cidari.co.uk
- Login difficulties – passwords@cidari.co.uk
- Request for equipment for learning ie paper/pens (not chromebooks) - <https://forms.gle/4SvaBPVd4WxPGHZ6>

Please click on the following link to access all of our online literature and the “How to” video <https://stgeorgesblackpool.com/pupils/home-learning>

REWARD/CELEBRATION

We know as parents and carers that you will continue to motivate and reward your children when they show great application to home learning. However, on a weekly basis we will be continuing to choose pupils of the week in each subject for excellent effort, commendations for high quality work completed in subjects and Head teacher commendations for consistent excellent work over a period of time in a number of subjects.

VARIABILITY/OPINION

Schools can be unpredictable places, with the potential for many things to impact learning. This remains the same during a period of home learning; we expect teachers and subjects to deliver in ways that best suit the children. We anticipate and accept that staff and pupils may fall victim to technical issues or even illness. There is no “agreed way” to teach in a classroom, nor is there online. The key thing is that we will be carrying on delivering the curriculum using our high quality curriculum booklets. These were produced during last lock down and it is imperative pupils fully engage with this. Pre-recorded lessons, reflecting on the learning from previous day, have shown to be the most effective home learning strategy. However, we also hope to deliver some live morning meetings and elective lessons in the coming week.

Every home is different, and every family will have different pressures. Our ultimate aim over the next six weeks is to keep children learning new content, keep children engaged and manage a difficult situation in a way that is realistic and understanding. We know the next six weeks will be difficult for everyone, but we are confident in our home learning package, it is far more detailed and comprehensive than previously experienced.

At the end of next week we will be sending a google form for parental comments/suggestions of how we might improve home learning further.

FINALLY

Preparing for this lockdown feels very different to where we were in March. We have learned lessons and we now feel we have genuine expertise and experience to call upon in terms of how we teach online. We are also far more realistic about what we can achieve. After a difficult few weeks of government announcements, it is critical that we keep in mind that we have entered a lockdown for serious reasons. We are being asked to stay at home to protect the NHS, each other and ultimately save lives. This is a heavy responsibility for us all to share but we have to remember, at the start of this lockdown period, that our key focus is to keep our children and staff safe. This will then enable them to keep learning new content whilst not increasing risk to their families. It is a difficult situation for everyone that is changing daily, so thank you all again for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely

G Warnock

Mr Warnock
Headteacher