



ST JOHN'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Street, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY13NX

Tel: 01253 807495 Fax: 01253 290685

Email: admin@st-john.blackpool.sch.uk

www.stjohnsblackpool.co.uk



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN LANCASHIRE

29/01/21

Dear St John's Families,

Where do I start? I think I will begin by saying a huge well done to everyone for all your hard work and patience during such challenging times. I know how hard this is for you all, many of you juggling working from home with teaching remote learning to your children. I can only say I'm glad that my own children are all old enough to manage their own learning as I don't think I could have supported them as well as working myself! I am fortunate enough to see across all the learning platforms- Tapestry, Google classroom, Class Dojo and what I can see are children who are learning well and trying hard.

We recognise that it is really difficult some days to be motivated – or to motivate your children-and that's ok. We are all doing our best and can only take each day one at a time. If that means that home leaning doesn't happen every day and only now and then, because you want to go out for a walk or do some baking or make a den in the lounge or create a masterpiece or...so many other activities that appeal, then that's ok too. We just need to be kind to each other and keep going.

We are all in the middle of a pandemic and are navigating our way through it- so the most important thing is to stay safe and look after each other. As a school, we have to show that we are meeting our statutory responsibility in providing hours of learning, but I don't want you to feel overwhelmed by this. For some families, the amount of learning is spot on- but for others it may be too much or too little. Some children will need more help whilst others are able to work independently quite happily. There is not a one size fits all- so whilst teachers will continue to create learning activities on the school website, we know that everyone's circumstances are different. Sometimes, that may mean you don't complete all the lessons- but please just do what you can. Read stories, practise times tables, complete quizzes- everything you do will support your child's learning.

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey on the website, where we asked you to tell us what we were doing well and what we could do to help you more. Your responses were overwhelmingly positive and made me cry with some of the lovely things that were said. I did laugh, however at the parent who said they lurched from feeling like Mary Poppins one minute and Miss Hannigan the next! I think we can all empathise with that.

One outcome of the survey is to try to move away from so much screen activity and teachers will plan in more written work and practical activities from next week. New key stage 2 learning packs are at the office to collect for lessons that will start from Monday and last for the next few weeks. We have also introduced class zoom meetings every week and an allotted time for each class has been arranged for children to change reading books, also as a result of the suggestions on the survey.

If you or your child are struggling, we are here. Please reach out to us. If there is a problem with understanding the work, pop a note on Tapestry or the class email- I have a whole army of staff able to help and they will respond as quickly as they can. If you are struggling and want advice or a place to turn to, just pick up the phone- we will do our best to help.

The St John's family is a strong school community- and we are here even when the doors are officially closed. Please don't be afraid to share with us – we are stronger together and we need to support each other now more than ever!

With the kindest of wishes

Mrs Galloway

Head Teacher



I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

