



School Newsletter

With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

19.03.2020

Dear parents/ carers,

Home Learning During COVID-19 School Closure

From next Tuesday, teachers will be planning and delivering the learning both for the children who need to stay at home and for the children attending school. Teachers will plan the same work for both sets of children in their year group. Children attending school will be able to do their work in school.

The intention is for the children to be provided with half-a-day's work each day. The work will typically include some reading, phonics or spelling as appropriate, English and maths. In addition, there will be some *Come and See* RE work and some topic work in other subject areas. I know this is going to present a challenge but we feel it is very important that the children do the work that is prepared for them in order for them to continue to progress in their learning. They will each bring home an exercise book but much of the learning will be accessible online.

We will not be sending home reading books but online reading books will be available using the free Oxford Owls e-book library. Your child's class teacher will provide you with further details.

As you will appreciate, it is simply not possible to replicate the classroom situation at home. The class teacher will not be able to provide support, as they would typically do in the classroom. And we do not expect you, as parents, to be able to sit alongside children while they work at home, particularly if you are working yourselves – if you are able to do that, then that would be a bonus. Therefore, it is the intention that the children should be able to access their learning independently with a very minimum of adult support. We also appreciate that there will be challenges with this, for example with some of the early years foundation stage activities.

There are a couple of ways in which teachers will remain in contact with you and the children, primarily through *Class Dojo* and through *See Saw*. Teachers will be able to give feedback and comments on pupils' work via these means too. **Please note that teachers and teaching assistants will only be able to read, write and respond to messages between the hours of 0900 – 1700. I have attached a Class Dojo user agreement to this letter.**

Although we cannot be sure how long the closure will last, I understand that our Y6 children (and their parents) are disappointed about the prospect of not returning before the end of the year and not being able to do some of the usual end of Y6 activities. Therefore, when this is all over we would

like to be able to end their time at St Mary's with a Leavers' Mass and celebration to mark the end of their journey through school if at all possible.

Tomorrow the children will be coming home with passwords, logins etc. (the children attending school must bring their logins to access their learning).

At the time of writing, there has been no update on who is defined as a key worker who is a vulnerable child. Therefore, we are still unable to say which children will be able to come to school on Monday. Thank you to you all for providing us with an indication of who may or may not be eligible to come. It has assisted us greatly in our planning. When we are provided with clarification we will let you know as soon as possible.

In the meantime, thank you all for your kind words of support and thank you to all of our fantastic staff who show such care and dedication during these extraordinary and difficult circumstances. It makes you proud to be part of the St Mary's family.

Kind regards,

Patrick Smyth

Headteacher