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St Mary's

Church of England Primary School

Newsletter No. 18 Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope this finds you all safe and well. We continue to be so impressed with the children's engagement with their remote learning and we thank you all very much for the support you are providing alongside your other commitments.

Supporting your child with online learning:

We chose Google Classroom as our online learning platform last March, as we felt it was the most user friendly and age appropriate for the children. We do acknowledge that particularly the younger children need additional adult support at home with managing some of their tasks.

Here are a few reminders about how to make the most of our online provision:

- Pre-recorded video demonstrations – please remind the children that these can be paused and watched as many times as is required for them to listen to explanations or instructions and to look at the modelled teaching at their own pace. These resources can be viewed 'on demand' on Google Classroom.
- Audio narrations - where additional explanations are needed, teachers may provide an audio narration to explain a task where a recorded video demonstration may not be required. This enables the children to listen to instructions without relying on an adult to support them with reading lots of information. They'll see a speaker symbol where an audio is recorded. 
- Asking questions – please remind the children that they can always ask a question about the day's learning at the end of the live meeting in the morning or during the course of the day by typing into Google Classroom which is monitored by a member of staff throughout the day.

Comments from parents

Thank you so much for the many positive comments about our online provision to date; individual comments include reference to:

- materials being well pitched in terms of length and detail
- the facility to pause and re-watch clips if needed
- children are far more engaged with the learning because their teacher has already explained it using familiar methods and language
- flexibility suits families with more than one child who is learning from home
- early morning meetings get children into 'school mode'
- daily collective worship helps to structure the day

We are continually evaluating our remote learning methods as you'll have seen from recent additions to provision including early morning meetings with the children.

How to juggle different responsibilities as a parent/carer at home:

We know how demanding this period of enforced school closure can be for so many families. [Click here](#) for top tips, useful links and expert advice to support **you and your child's wellbeing and learning**. This information is from the BBC which adds to what we sent last week. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can support you and your family as needed.

BBC learning materials on TV:

While schools are closed to most pupils, the BBC is broadcasting lessons and programmes on BBC Two and CBBC - as well as on iPlayer, with extra content online. For primary school pupils, CBBC will show BBC Bitesize Daily as well as popular shows such as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories, Art Ninja and Operation Ouch.

The [Bitesize Daily lessons](#) on TV will feature a different subject each day across the week, including Maths, English, Science and French. There will be teaching for five-to-seven year-olds, seven-to-nine year-olds and that aged nine-to-11.

The Celebrity Supply Teacher programme at 10:05 will feature the likes of footballer Marcus Rashford on PE and singer Geri Horner's English tips.

How to access:

- Online - learning resources for children of all ages can be found on the [BBC Bitesize website](#).
- TV - programming for primary school pupils will be on CBBC between 09:00 and 12.00 every weekday. Red Button - the Bitesize Daily lessons will also be shown on the Red Button service on TV. One benefit to accessing learning materials on TV is that it doesn't rely on the use of a tablet or laptop.
- iPlayer - all episodes will be available on catch-up, via [iPlayer](#).

These can be used supplement Google Classroom daily resources, **not to replace them**

Structure and routine:

When the children are at school, they are all working to a very specific timetable and routine. We are very aware that remote learning doesn't easily slot into the same routine. With this in mind, teachers are currently creating class specific, age appropriate suggestions of how the children could structure their day to include breaks and lunch to avoid extended time on screens. This would only be a suggestion of course as timings would need to be adjusted in accordance with each family's context. We will share these once complete. This picture to the right is just ~~one~~ example.

School timetable		Name: Kim				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
9.00 - 10.30	English	maths	history	English	science	
Break						
11.00 - 12.30	maths	IT	science	maths	English	
Lunch time						
1.30 - 3.00	geography	music	PE	drama	art	
After school	football		piano		swimming	

Statutory Assessments:

The Department of Education has confirmed that the SATs that take place in Year 2 and Year 6 have been cancelled. This is also the case for the Year 1 phonic screening test. Please be assured that this doesn't change anything with regard to the curriculum; we will continue to teach and assess in an ongoing way as we have always done. For children in Year 6; we will liaise directly with secondary school colleagues in the same way as we do each year in the summer term to give teacher assessments of the children's attainment.

Covid-19 Diagnoses in children at home:

Although most children won't be in school, please keep us informed if your child has tested positive for Covid-19. Please do this if someone in your household has tested positive if you feel that this affect your child's ability to access or complete online learning. You can do this by contacting the office by email.

Critical Worker Provision:

Covid-19 symptoms and testing:

- If your child attends the critical worker provision and **they OR a household member develops Covid-19 symptoms, the child must not come to school.** You must notify us immediately so that we can advise on next steps.
- In the event that your child tests positive for Covid-19, they and the whole household must self-isolate. You must notify the school immediately so that we can take the necessary steps to close that critical worker bubble.

Open windows for ventilation:

- As you'll know, keeping classrooms well ventilated is a significant part of our infection control measures. As temperatures drop, please ensure that your child wears plenty of layers as although the heating is on, windows are open! Ideas include wearing vests, t shirts, and sweatshirt with a cardigan, leggings under or over tights/trousers, base layers.



We'd like to end this week's newsletter with a prayer that we have been using in worship with the children:

A prayer card with a blue background. On the left, a white box contains a prayer in blue text. On the right, there are silhouettes of three people riding camels against a blue sky with a light blue horizon line.

**Lord Jesus,
Thank you that you are the light of the
world.
May the light of your love burn brightly
today,
especially for those who are ill or sad.
For all those who work in health service,
for everyone who is missing family and
friends during lockdown,
for our school and everyone we know when
we can't all be together.
Bless each one with your presence and
peace.
Amen**

From all of us at St Mary's primary school, stay safe, stay well and our love and prayers be with you as always.

**Maria Constantinou and Mel Adams
Headteachers**