



St Mary's Primary School



Newsletter 15

8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start this week by thanking you all this week for your patience, kindness and support we have received from you as we navigate through this challenging time. St Mary's will remain open throughout the period of lockdown to the groups of children specified by the government but as ever we look forward to welcoming everyone in our school community back as soon as it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, children who are not in school will have access to their Google Classroom. We have received lots of positive feedback about the structure of the Oak National Academy lessons that we have directed you to for this week so thank you for that. From next week, children will be provided with lessons which will reflect the content that they would normally be covering in school. Our lessons will be a mixture of Oak National Academy units and personalised schemes of learning with pre-recorded voice-overs to guide the children. All teachers in school are teaching their usual teaching hours but will ensure they respond to the work on Google Classroom as much as they are able to. We will also ensure we contact each family every two weeks. Please remember that we are here and open so please do contact us either by email or phone if we can support you further.

From next week, we would like children to hand in their work on the Google Classroom. When each piece of work has been completed, either save it as a document or take a photo of it and save as a file on your computer. Then go back to the "View Assignment" screen - you will see at the top of the screen at the right hand side a "Your Work" box. Under this please click "Add or Create" and click "file" which will allow you to upload your saved file. Then click "Hand In". You can also add any comments you wish to accompany it and both will be available to the class teachers. For parents of children in Reception, activities will be provided through Tapestry and Miss Chestney will communicate with you about this.

In addition to this, we would like to provide everyone with an English book, Maths book and additional folder to place hard copies of work in. We will then ask for this book to be brought into school when it is safe to do so. We would like children to stick the Maths and English work into the related book and any additional work can be placed in the folder.

Therefore, this coming Tuesday morning, between 9am and 11am (weather permitting) we will place these books on a table in the car park for you to collect should you wish to do so. We will also place packs of additional resources which you can collect. Please only come and collect these books if you believe it is safe to do so and if all members of your household are well. If you are shielding or do not feel you can visit school, please do let us know and we will find an alternative way to get these to you if you need them. If you feel you have adequate resources at home, you may wish to use those for now. For parents collecting resources, we ask that you wear a mask and do not approach tables if another person is there. Please take what you need but avoid touching other resources. If you require any work to be printed, please let us know by email in advance.

Unfortunately, we are having to close school to children on Monday 11th January. Staff will be available to contact on the class teacher and office email addresses, but we won't be able to answer the phone. We will be back on Tuesday 12th.

Since coming back in September, we have been so impressed by the resilience, perseverance and progress made by the children having had an extended time away from school since the March lockdown. Therefore, please do try to do all you can to ensure children access the daily lessons that are provided. We truly empathise with the challenges this presents to some families and we will try our best to support you with this.

Most importantly do stay safe, look after each other and enjoy the time, although limited for some, that you have to be together with your family.

Our very best wishes to you all,

Miss Smith and the Staff at St Mary's