



16th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to thank you for your feedback regarding the new online methods of homework.

As I am sure you will all appreciate it has been a learning curve for us all. Our reasoning for trialling this system has been to allow the staff, children and you as parents the experience using this platform. Although this has been the Department of Education's preferred method for remote/home learning, we have come to understand that this may not be the best method of learning for both our teaching staff, children and families as a whole. Remote and Home learning should be simple for everyone involved to allow the children to learn and it should not be overly complicated.

Following feedback from staff members and families, the Senior Leadership Team has decided the following. Children will be allocated the following **homework** each week:

HOMEWORK

- ✓ **Spellings:** The list of spellings for the half-term will be sent out at the start of the half-term with all children. We also have links to all spellings on the class pages of our website which you can access at any point. Children will be tested on their knowledge each Friday so that we can address any learning gaps.
- ✓ **Maths:** We are asking that all children from Year 2 to Year 6 work on their times tables as homework for maths throughout the year. This can be done via Times Tables Rockstars or via simple rhyming if you do not have a facility to use an online method. We feel that this key skill is one that underpins a lot of maths logic and is something that everyone can freely access. Our PTA have agreed to hold a super competition for the children regarding this in the Spring Term so this would be a perfect time to practise. **Year 1 pupils will be given activities to reinforce number recognition, number bonds and different representation of number.**
- ✓ **Reading:** Next week you will all receive a log in for our newly purchased home learning reading app – Oxford Owl. This allows children to access a virtual library of books that have been selected to match their reading ability. Again if you do not have access to online facilities please take the time to read with your child at home. The children enjoy reading to the staff in school and it is a great time for you to see how they are progressing. Reading can take place in any form, even when you are out and about. You could ask children to read street names or shop names etc. If you do read with your child please take the time to complete the reading journal via Purple Mash so we know what books they have accessed.

For pupils who are in Early Years (Reception aged pupils) parents will be informed of their home work via Mrs Towriess, Miss Parkinson and Mrs Gregory.

As assessments take place teachers may ask pupils to complete more homework e.g for pupils in year 6 to prepare them for the SATs and also for secondary education.



Thankfulness - Trust - Honesty - Friendship - Love - Peace - Forgiveness - Respect - Courage

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Class Bubble Closures / Lockdown Remote learning:

Following our survey and from gaining feedback from staff members and parents, we have decided to use a **'blended approach'** of **online learning and paper packs** / books for our **remote learning** so that everyone can easily access this.

We want this to be a simple system and something that is easily managed by staff and families.

We know that remote learning is challenging for everyone including the school staff and we want it to be as simple as possible.

Please be aware that it could be staff members who test positive for COVID-19 and they could be very poorly. We have contingency plans for this eventuality and our Key Stage Leaders, Mrs Towriess for Years R,1 and 2 and Mrs Moses for Years 3,4,5 and 6 will oversee the learning alongside Mr Stitcher The Assistant Headteacher. Teaching assistants and HLTAs will also be allocated roles.

Paper packs.

- To allow the blended approach to work well you will have already received a pack of resources for your child. Please do not use them unless your child's bubble has been closed.
- We will add to these half termly with activities that are applicable to the topics we are learning about in the half term.
- School has purchased 'Power Maths' books for every child to support with maths work. This resource is linked to the mastery approach from The White Rose Hub – a maths resource that we use in school daily. These books include easily accessible lessons for children which they should be able to complete with minimal input. Children will be advised what to complete by their teacher when and if they need to. There will also be a video to instruct children how to complete their learning via White Rose Hub. This will be placed on TEAMS for pupils to view.
- We are also looking at purchasing additional books for pupils for English lessons and other online resources to support learning.

Online tools

- Teachers will use 'Teams' to upload learning. Please bear in mind that this will only be manned **between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday**. In order to remain safe online please do not use Teams as an instant chat facility or a video call. If you require assistance please contact the school office in the normal way via email office@st-jameslanehead.lancs.sch.uk or via phoning 01282 426833. A member of staff will be able to help you during school hours.
- Our teachers will not be carrying out virtual lessons, they may however decide to use The Oak Academy resources or other online resources to demonstrate information to our pupils. Children can also use the online platforms which are used for homework and the ones that they already use in class.





Individual isolation: Some children may have to isolate individually due to symptoms or reasoning not connected to school. In these cases, children can complete the home learning packs which have already been sent out. We would also direct you to use the Oak Academy which has been set up by the Government to supplement remote learning for schools. If your child has completed all this work and you require further work, please speak to the school office who can arrange for more to be added. However, please be mindful that staff are still teaching full-time so this may not be immediate. As a school we would like to promote wellbeing activities for all our pupils during this strange time. Taking time as a family to sit down and chat, acknowledging small achievements and discussing worries are all just as important as everything listed above.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support during this difficult time. School staff are very grateful for all the positive comments that they are receiving. We know that we are lucky to have such a supportive St James' school family.

This is new to us all and we hope that we have managed to create a balanced range of activities to suit the needs of all. If you require any further information or are having any struggles please do not hesitate to contact the school office or refer to the Remote Learning Policy on the school website.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Dugdale

Head Teacher



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