

# St. George's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Mr Pete Chapman BA (Hons) - Headteacher

Dennett Close, Maghull, Liverpool. L31 5PD

Tel: 0151 288 6630

Email: [admin.stgeorgesprimary@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:admin.stgeorgesprimary@schools.sefton.gov.uk)

Website: [www.st-georgesprimary.com](http://www.st-georgesprimary.com)



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Dear Parents

It's been another difficult week of new challenges, new directives, and new ways of working. Whether you're working from home or coming home and supporting your children, I'm sure it's been hard work and difficult for most. The staff have faced their own challenges with the learning platform, working rota's and trying to support their children's learning. Despite all our challenges, we are another week into the lockdown, and another week closer to coming through this again.

I must pass on our thanks from ALL the staff for the good wishes, messages of support, kind words and even goodies! So many lovely parents have made a difficult week much better. It really is so appreciated to know that you appreciate the hard work that all the staff have put in to ensure children's learning is a priority. Thank you!

## **LEARNING SUCCESS:**

**HUGE** thanks to everyone this week for a tremendous effort with our new home learning platform. It hasn't been easy for everyone to get up and running but we couldn't be prouder of everyone's hard work and efforts to get the children logged in and learning. We still have a way to go but are delighted with our first week! 90% of children have done their English and maths and managed to send it back to the teachers for marking, feedback and assessment. We have all learnt so much in a short space of time so by next week, it will feel like a walk in the park!

## **RETURNING WORK:**

In order for the teachers to be able to assess and feedback to children, we really need the children's work returning. There are different ways of doing this and these methods are on the Google Classroom pages. If you are struggling, or unsure, please message your child's teacher for advice. If work hasn't been returned, it can look like children haven't done their work so please check to see if work has been photographed and returned. If it's difficult to do daily, please message teachers and let them know when it could be done, and they will look out for it.

The following are the items that teachers would like to see, wherever possible:

- **Reception:** English and maths
- **Year 1:** English, maths & phonics
- **Year 2:** English, maths, phonics & spelling
- **KS2:** English, maths & daily afternoon piece of work.

## **ADDITIONAL HOME LEARNING ACTIVITIES:**

We absolutely appreciate the difficulties most families are under to complete all home learning and returned to their teachers. Where possible, teachers have tried to make activities as independent as possible. All teachers have set additional activities for the children on Reading Eggs, Spelling Shed, My Maths, Maths Shed. These are all independent applications that children can do if parents aren't able to support. Children access these independently in school so are great opportunities if parents are busy or working at home. Reading Eggs especially is an excellent activity for children to complete.

PLEASE don't think that every aspect must be completed every day. We understand it may not always be possible and every family situation is unique. Most children from Y2 upwards should be able to access their maths and English without support. The children will make mistakes, but teachers will provide help and support, just as they would in school, albeit through technology!

### **HOME LEARNING RATIONALE:**

Today we have sent home our Home Learning Rationale. Could we ask that you read this carefully as it may provide answers to some of the questions you have. It sets out some expectations, what to expect and why we have chosen some aspects of home learning.

### **CGP & WHITE ROSE MATHS BOOKS:**

These books have been provided to children to support the home learning routines. If your child is attending school, on any day, can you please ensure that these books come into school with them. These are linked to the activities and videos on the Home Learning Google Classroom pages. Thank you.

### **DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION GUIDANCE FOR KEY STAGE 2:**

You'll be aware that we only find out about latest development when the nation does. We watch the daily news and we listen to the live Westminster addresses. The DfE release information to school in relation to admin and expectations. When we were first informed of the national lockdown on 4<sup>th</sup> January, the DfE's guidance was that all primary schools should be providing 3 hours of remote learning each day to children in KS2. This guidance changed at the end of the week and the expectation is the children now undertake **4 hours each working day**. This can be made up of different aspects of learning but generally, is made up of the following:

Maths;	1 hour
English;	1 hour
Afternoon activity;	1 hour
Reading Eggs;	20 minutes
My Maths	20 minutes
Spelling Shed	10 minutes
Home Reading	10 minutes

Some children will achieve this amount of work relatively easily, and others may struggle to complete every element, every day. We are realistic and understand the vast challenges you have. The MOST important aspect is naturally English and maths. If children are spending longer on English and maths, then stop. The children can message their teachers for support and let them know how they have got on.

We hope that the weeks ahead will bring some consistency and routines into your homes. It's a challenge for everyone but things will get easier and normality will return.

Wishing you all well.  
Stay safe.



Mr P. Chapman  
Headteacher

*To learn with kindness, respect and friendship through God's love.*