

30.3.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin week two away from school, the main thing St Mary's staff would like to say to you is **thank you** for your resilience and determination to do your best at this difficult time.

Given the crisis we are facing, you must think about the health and well-being of your family above all else. Our hope is that this time at home will be memorable for you as a family and that no one feels under pressure to provide home education in any one particular way or to complete masses of work. Please remember, that there is no statutory requirement for home learning.



As educators we would urge you to adopt an approach that works for you in your own particular set of circumstances and create a timetable that suits your families' needs as it will look and feel very different to traditional schooling.

It is a unique opportunity to be creative with learning. You may as parents be working from home and trying to provide some sort of structure for your child/children to continue with their learning. We are all going to have to be flexible and manage expectations. There is no right or wrong way to go about things, so please match home learning to your own child/children and your family circumstances. You may be able to complete some of the suggested learning activities on website class pages or you may have to adopt a project-based learning approach that stimulates and engages the whole family. The essential thing is to work out your own rhythms and patterns.

Your aims and our aims are exactly the same – to inspire a lifelong love of learning in our children.

Staff continue to upload and guide you using the class website pages. They are really enjoying receiving your messages and photos of the children's new reality at home, so keep them coming in! The class do-jo system in KS1 & KS2 and Tapestry in EYFS are also working well as forms of home-school communication.

We all hope you are safe and well. Please keep all our school community in your thoughts and prayers.

The St Mary's Team

