Unique and Valued by God

The St Mark's Newsletter

11th January 2021

'A school where children develop the passion to learn, the skills and knowledge to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society.'

Dear Parents, Carers, Children, Staff and Governors

Lockdown 3 and Remote Learning!

Happy New Year! It is a shame that we have to begin 2021 in this way, but by remaining focused, united, and resilient, we can overcome the challenges that the present situation brings. I want to say a big thank you to all members of our school staff who have adapted to providing high quality online provision at very short notice and are doing a fantastic job working from both home and school. Some of our staff and our school families have been affected by Covid 19 during the Christmas period and we remember them in our prayers and wish them a speedy recovery.

A big thank you also to all parents and children across the school who are fully engaging in remote learning. If you are yet to fully engage, please remember that the completion of work is not optional, but it is a government and local authority requirement. Please ensure that your child completes the daily work set by their teacher. Some aspects are sequenced, so each day is important. If you have any problems with logging in, accessing work or submitting work, please refer to the trouble-shooting page on page 3 of this newsletter and failing this, message your child's class teacher directly. On the following page further details are provided relating to our online offer.

We are always looking to refine our provision and next week we will send out a parent survey to obtain some parental feedback from you.

Vulnerable children and children of Critical Workers

Infection rates continue to increase within London and in some cases it is believed that 1 in 20 people carry the infection. The Government reiterates that the safest place for yourself and your child is at home. Places for key worker children are not based on convenience but on necessity. The most recent guidance states that critical workers should even keep their children at home if they can. Staff are working within school supporting a small number of our vulnerable and key worker children. If you are eligible and would like to apply for a place, please follow the link and the details here: https://forms.gle/c4azkiwPDKLcNejM7 Please make sure you apply by Wednesday midday each week and we will confirm your place by the Friday.

BIBLE VERSE

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble."

Psalm 46:1

Attendance Update

WELL DONE!

A big well done to all children who have been logging on to their online learning this week. I want to give a particular well done to children in Years 5 and 6 who returned the most about of work last week. Teachers are pleased that they have received work back from nearly all children from within the classes.

Remote Learning Summary and Guidance

- Please ensure that children are logged in by 9.00-9.15 am every morning. We are now able to identify which children are logged in and completing the online work
- We are now back at school. Ensure that children go to bed on time so they are able to wake up for their online learning
- Make sure children are fully dressed and do not appear on camera in their pyjamas
- This week, teachers will be trialling daily live meetings via Google Meet with the children
- Daily work covers between 3-4 hours per day. There will be daily Reading, English and Maths lessons and one hour for another subject. In addition to this, children will be set spellings, timetables, PE, Music, phonics and touch typing lessons across the week
- Teachers will also be uploading videos from White Rose Maths, The Literacy Tree and other sources
- We recommend that children keep to a routine of getting up at the same time as they would for school and completing their work as it is outlined on the class timetable
- Teachers and staff will be on hand to provide children with live, remote comments and feedback when they complete their work
- Most Class pages have a timetable and outline for when lessons will take place. Try your best to keep to this
- Please add your comments and uploaded photographs onto Tapestry if your child is in the Early Years
- Please can parents or other adults do their best to avoid appearing on screen themselves during children's live sessions

Devices Available to loan

Are you struggling to access or complete the online work because your child hasn't got a device to work from? We have some notebooks from school that we are able to loan to families and we are waiting for some more to be delivered from the Department for Education. Please make contact with Mrs Moses on

cmoses@st-markscofe.lambeth.sch.uk

The Government has also launched a scheme to ensure that families that do not currently have connectivity to the internet to access online work can obtain this. If you fall into this category please make contact with Mrs Moses who will need to take some personal details for you and make an application on your behalf.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Sometimes working with technology can be frustrating. We hope that this advice will help you to resolve some of the common problems that have come up for parents. It if doesn't, please make contact with your child's class teacher.

I'm having trouble accessing Google Classroom from the school's laptops?

On the left hand side of the task bar click on Add person

- Type in your username – this is the St Mark's email address
- Type in your password
- You are now in your classroom and can access your work.

I can't log on from my own device (phone, tablet or iPad):

Go to https://classroom.google.com/

- Click on the + sign in the top right hand corner – join a class
- Type in your username – this is the St Mark's email address
- Type in your password

You are now in your classroom and can access your work.

Are you using the Google classroom app?

- Click on the app
- Type in your username – this is the St Mark's email address
- Type in your password

You are now in your classroom and can access your work.

It can sometimes be problematic if you have your email (gmail) account open on the iPad, laptop or tablet that your child is about using to access their work. You should sign out of your gmail account before attempting to log into Google classrooms.

I can't write on the pdf

If the work is on a pdf, your child will not be able to write on the pdf document. They should open a new word document in google classroom and type their answers on that document. Give the new document a name and upload this to the class teacher.

To open a new blank word document in Google classroom:

- Click on the work you are responding to
- On the right hand side, click on +Add or Create
- A drop down menu opens
- Click on word document

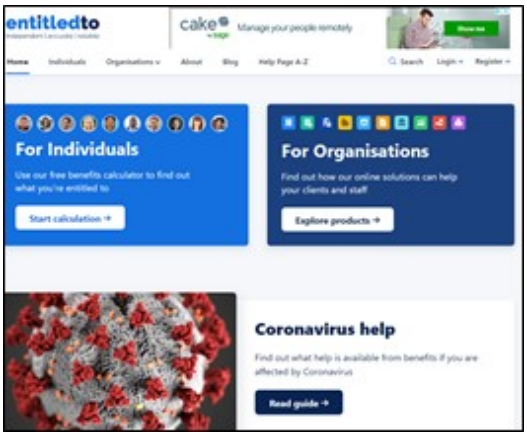
I am in the classroom but cannot open the work?

- The link maybe broken – please contact your child's class teacher for support opening documents.

I can't turn in my child's work

Make sure you like on the turn in button

Signposting Support

	Have your circumstances changed? You may be able to claim for support. Please visit www.entitledto.co.uk
	If you feel you may have Covid-19, but are not experiencing any symptoms Please visit https://love.lambeth.gov.uk/community-testing-starts-in-lambeth-to-cut-covid-19-transmission/ to book a test.
	Available Mental Health Support with-in Lambeth https://lambethtogether.net/living-well-network-alliance/get-help/lambeth-mental-health-crisis-support/ https://www.lambethcollaborative.org.uk/mental-health-support-in-lambeth-3
	Please follow the link below if you require urgent assistance https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/get-support-for-yourself-or-a-vulnerable-person/urgent-assistance

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)

Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions

All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read

If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read

When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read

Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family

Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read

Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

7 Top Tips to Support Key Stage 2 Children Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures—these tips are aimed at supporting children in Key Stage 2.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)

Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Why not set your child a reading challenge: How many different things can you read in a day?

2 Ask your child lots of questions

All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to'. Why not take turns to read a page each of a longer novel? So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read

If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the fox on the front cover? Why do you think he's so sad?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read

When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Think about how the characters behaved and interesting things that happened in the plot. You could encourage your child to keep a **reading diary**, describing the big idea of each chapter.

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read

Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper (or chalk on a path) and draw around your child. Ask them to fill the outline with lots of information about the main character.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family

Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'you could use your slimepower to help me cook tea tonight.'

7 Maintain the motivation to read

Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Give your child choices about what they read, being in control is great motivation! Encourage them to recommend books to family and friends. For example, 'you should read this book, Grandad, because you love funny stories.'