



**ST JAMES**  
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing with just an update on remote learning. Last week we sent out a survey to parents (via text) asking if you required a paper based pack or were going straight to our online platforms; Tapestry for EYFS and SeeSaw for KS1 and 2. Office staff have been working really hard to get back to you all to ensure those of you that requested paper based packs have been able to collect them. There are still some parents/carers that we need to catch up with this week and we will hopefully do this today. If you have not heard from us at all by the end of today, and you have not got a paper based pack or are not online, then please contact us on Tuesday and we will ensure that we meet your requirements.

As per a letter sent out from Mrs Patel last week, there is a real emphasis from the government that during this lockdown all children are expected to complete the home learning tasks that school set for them. You may have also heard that schools are expected to provide a set amount of home learning for their pupils. This has changed since Mrs Patel sent out her letter. Schools are now expected to set 3 hours worth of work for KS1 children and 4 hours for KS2 children.

My understanding of this is that pupils are not expected to be sat for 3 or 4 hours each day completing their work, but school set work that should cover that amount. For example, at school, we usually set aside 1 hour for a maths or English lesson each day – that includes a teacher input and time to complete the task. It takes some children the full 1 hour to complete their tasks and some children less; who then receive additional challenges. If your child completes the daily tasks set for them on SeeSaw, or the daily activities outlined in their paper based packs then you should cover the expected amount of time. However, if you feel your child needs more work then please let us know as we can tailor our approach or signpost you to other online learning activities.

As it currently stands we are not going to be offering 'live' online lessons. There are reasons why we have chosen not to do this, including safeguarding, but one of them is also the demand this would put on parents/carers; especially if you have more than one child. For example, if we went 'live' at the same time each morning, and there is only one device available in the household, it would be unfair that one or more children could potentially miss out. Also, for parents who will be working from home, whilst trying to juggle home school, they may prefer to work at their own pace that fits in with their family/work requirements.

However, we do feel it important that teachers keep in touch with their pupils. We have asked teachers to pre-record some of their lesson demonstrations when appropriate – either through video or through voice. Teachers are available every school day over the online platforms and can offer support and feedback for your child. That is why we are going to be encouraging as many of you as you can to get online; your child will get the most benefit out of working this way. We are going to be sending SeeSaw codes out to all KS1 and 2 parents/carers today so that everyone will have access to this platform. I know most of you already have this information so apologies if you receive it again. If you need help logging onto Tapestry (EYFS only) then please contact the school office and we can sort this for you.

We appreciate that to get online there may be technical difficulties that families face. There are some things school can help with. However, you may be able to access our online platforms through Playstations, Xboxes, Smart TVs and Kindle Fires. There is quite a lot of information coming out at the moment that if your console has an internet browser you should be able to access our online platform SeeSaw as this is web based, not solely app based. If this is the case, let your child's class teacher know and we can find a way of making this work. We will post some further information about this to our Facebook page.



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We also understand that you and your child might find working on a paper based system better – but we will be encouraging you to use Tapestry/SeeSaw in some capacity. This may include uploading images of your child’s work so that teachers can offer support and feedback on a daily basis.

We are also setting up a reward system for remote learning to provide extra motivation and encouragement for the children. We will send more information out about this when it is set up.

I would like to clarify that you do not need to have a paper based pack if you are working online. Paper based packs will hopefully only be used as a last resort as we move forward with remote learning. This way of working is still fairly new to all of us, and we are confident that our ways of remote learning will be much stronger than the last lockdown of March. This is because we have new systems in place and have learnt so much about remote learning over the past year. We are always happy to accept feedback from a parent point of view, so please contact us if you have any constructive or positive feedback about the way in which we are working.

I want to finish by stressing that we are here to help with ANYTHING! Remember that home is not school so some children may find this way of working unusual and may not be as keen as they are in school! If home learning doesn’t go to plan; remember that you are doing a wonderful job in just trying all of this and as a school we appreciate so much what you are doing to keep your child’s education going through this difficult time. Please do not struggle, or be unhappy with, the home learning and not tell us! School will contact you each week to check how things are going – please look out for these phone calls. We want to provide the very best remote learning we can offer, but we can only achieve this if we all work together.

Sending you my very best wishes,

Mrs L Belfield  
Principal