



Together we follow Jesus' footsteps in our living and learning.

Dear Families,

I hope you are all safe and well and are enjoying the glorious sunshine today and the snow earlier in the week. Thank you all for your support with home learning over the last few weeks. Your kind words are really appreciated and I know the challenges families are facing juggling work and supporting their children. Hopefully, we will reopen to all pupils in the near future. I have passed your words of gratitude and support onto the staff team, who are doing an amazing job – I am sure you agree.

Home Learning Surveys

If you have a spare few minutes, could parents complete a home learning survey when it is sent to you next week, this will enable us to further improve our offer? We would appreciate your feedback so we can try to support as many families as possible.

As time goes by, home learning may become more of a challenge for all families. I had hoped school would never close again, but here we are. Please remember learning for your child at home is not the same as being in the classroom with their peers, they may not be as motivated at home and may struggle to complete work. If your child is unable to complete a task, just let the class teacher know. Teachers do not expect all work to come back into school correct. If your child cannot do something independently, that tells the class teacher what to teach next, and teachers need to know this. By next week, all children will have a pack to help with their learning. This will include a whiteboard and pen and suitable resources to engage them on live lessons. The class teacher will let you know when they are ready to collect. We are also going to send some workbooks home to support learning- these will be similar to the resources that we provided during the first lockdown. We will let you know when they arrive in school.

Each family should try and get into a routine and pattern that works for them. Do not compare yourself to other families as we all have our own circumstances. If you need any support or would like to log a request for a laptop, please do not hesitate to contact class teachers, myself or Mrs Colley by emailing soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk or telephone the school office.



Well-being

We would like to support all families during this time. Even if your child is in school, we ask that if any circumstances change within your family please let us know to help support your child. School is taking part in the 'Well-being for Education Return COVID-19' project. This includes additional well-being training and mental health training for staff.

Children's Mental Health Week 1 - 7 February 2021

You can find resources to support your child at www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk. We will be taking part in this week in school through our curriculum. This year's theme is 'Express yourself'.





Critical Worker places

We have a high demand for places in school and we do have waiting lists for places in some year groups. If you are able to keep your child at home and do not need places on certain days, please let the school office know in advance. We are currently in a national lockdown and children should only be in school if absolutely necessary. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Rapid COVID-19 Lateral Flow Device Testing for staff in school

Staff now have the option to take a COVID-19 test twice a week from Monday 25 January 2021. This will identify carriers of the virus who are asymptomatic. If your child has been in close contact with a staff member who has tested positive, we will contact families advising that your child self isolates in line with current public health guidance.

Residential trips/ Class trips

Unfortunately, the residential trips that were meant to place last academic year didn't happen. We did hope that they would have been able to happen this year, but this will not happen, therefore we are going to automatically refund year 6 money. This may take a few weeks, but the office will inform you when the refund has been processed. We will save the money for all other year groups until next academic year, however, if you would like a refund then please email the school office.

First Holy Communion

We have children in the current year 5 class who have not yet completed their First Holy Communion. We are liaising with the church to set this up. Children in the current year 4 class will be given the opportunity to prepare for this in the next academic year.

Whole school DT project

Miss Readman is going to direct you all to complete a DT project. Until you get the instructions, please keep red and pink pieces of card or paper, e.g. sweet wrappers, pieces of cereal boxes.

Reading

Mrs Colley will be sending out exciting news about a reading competition. We are very excited about this and we would like you to encourage your child to have a think about favourite book.

You are able to set up a parent account on Oxford Owls to access a range of online school reading books. Please also encourage your child to use Lexia or Reading Plus (KS2).

Thank you for all of your continued support.

Stay safe and God bless.

Mrs Tumelty
Acting Head of School

