



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with regret that St Mary's has needed to, once again, close its doors to most of our pupils. We care deeply about each one and we are ambitious for their academic achievement. It is with this in mind that we are providing the best possible programme for remote learning.

St Mary's continues to develop and improve the remote learning we offer pupils, using imaginative and innovative approaches. While remote learning is not ideal and we would much prefer to have all our children in school, we are determined to make the most of this situation and use the time as best we can.

This letter is to outline our plans for remote learning for children during the coming weeks.

Our remote learning plan

Our remote learning plan has been made with our pupils and their families in mind. We believe that this strategy will work best for the children at our school.

- Children will be expected to spend a minimum of 4 hours doing school work.
- Teachers will be providing a timetable for their children which will provide a weekly overview (this may be adapted over time)
- Lessons will be a mixture of live-streaming and video shots, with work being set for children to complete either on paper or on their devices, which they are then expected to upload for their teacher
- Learning resources will be provided depending on the yeargroup, and children or parents be told how to access these – some will be electronic, and some paper/ books/ resource packs.
- Children will have daily contact with their teacher or (if they are absent) with a member of staff through a set live video streamed session and at other times in the day depending on the timetable; teachers are available to answer questions or respond to children throughout the day
- Children will have regular feedback on work set, whether through verbal comments or a typed response. Teachers will provide detailed feedback on their longer piece of independent writing weekly.
- In addition to the work set by teachers, it is hoped that parents will continue to encourage and cajole their children into developing good reading habits by setting aside a good amount of time (minimum 30 minutes) reading for pleasure. If children need a new book to read, please contact their teacher and we can arrange for you to collect books from our school library.

What you'll need at home

- Children will need access to a device that can access the internet, such as a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or smartphone so that they can access the work set (a phone or tablet is sufficient for EYFS and Year 1, and most work will need to be done in practical or paper form.)
- Children will need items such-as paper, notebooks, pens and pencils. We will be sending workbooks or resources home appropriate to the yeargroup.
- Where possible, children need a quiet space where they can concentrate and work without interruption.

If your child does not have the resources to access their learning, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can help support you.

Where possible, the school is providing devices for children to use where there is no device within the family. While we will attempt to help as many of you as we can, please bear in mind that we will be prioritizing families where children are eligible for free school meals or pupil premium, then families with

no suitable devices and finally families with several children sharing a device. We apologise if we are unable to meet the needs of every family in this regard.

What we expect from your child

It's important that your child engages with home learning. We are expecting pupils to stick to a timetable, which will be shared on Google classrooms. We have staggered the live sessions to enable children with siblings to log in if they are sharing a device.

If they aren't engaging with the learning, staff will use the following strategies to provide additional support:

- Initial message through email or Google Classrooms to the child
- Call to the family by teacher or support staff
- Senior leader will call the family
- Increased feedback and targeted support either via the app or platform, or through phone calls or emails.
- In extreme cases and depending on other factors, the school will consider inviting the child to attend school.

What you can do to help

We appreciate that this situation may present some challenges for you. We kindly ask for your support so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for your child during this time.

Younger children in particular may need support in accessing online materials and staying focused with their remote learning. We ask that you help them as much as you can.

At the same time, we don't expect you to watch your child all day, and we wouldn't expect parents/carers to get involved in remote lessons in place of our teachers. But, it would be really helpful if you can take an active role in your child's learning by asking them about their day and what they've learned.

Our top tips:

- Try to encourage your child to be ready and dressed for the start of the school day, and to keep to their timetable, getting into good routines to give structure to their day.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, and make it clear when the school day is over, to separate home and school life
- Plan breaks and exercise into the day to help keep your child keep active and to help them concentrate

Help for Pupil Premium and Free School Meal families who do not have broadband

- The school have a limited number of Vodafone data sims available – please ask if you are in need. We are also applying to top up data for families who are using the following networks: Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile. If you would like us to apply on your behalf, please email Mrs Marland at smarland@marycps.brent.sch.uk with the following information: Account holder name, mobile phone number, mobile network and whether you are a Pay Monthly or PAYG.
- In addition, we hope to arrange for dongles which will provide free data for families who have no fixed broadband. Please email the school if you may need this support.

Please keep in touch with us and do let us know if you're having any difficulties with remote learning, or if you have any questions. **You should contact their class teacher in the first instance**, but may also contact Mrs Marland or Mrs Pratley for further support, or for support with resources.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs B Pratley
Headteacher