

Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell  
*ST JAMES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL*



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*Headteacher: Mrs C McGregor*

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

#### HOME LEARNING UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your families are well and that you are managing through these challenging circumstances. We would like to express huge thanks to you and to your extended families in supporting us during the Covid-19 outbreak.

I am writing to you today to give further information about the home learning we will be providing from now on. We hope that the packs we created for the 2 weeks before the Easter break have been useful and that you have been able to schedule work, exercise and family time to suit your needs. In addition, we have been busy updating our **Home learning** page under the **Parent Information** tab on the school website in order to provide you with useful resources. Please do continue to check this page as we will update this as and when we find further appropriate resources.

We appreciate that this is a difficult and uncertain time and we are keen to ensure that the work we provide is both manageable and easy to access. Over the last two weeks, we have discussed home learning going forward and have put in place a system that is consistent across the school and also has a balance of both offline and online activities.

#### Class Dojo

Before the Easter break, you should all have received an email inviting you to activate your children's Class Dojo accounts. Please check your junk and spam folders as these emails sometimes make their way into those. Class Dojo is a platform that school already used and many of you registered with. It will be used to communicate with parents and set work for home learning. Most year groups have already sent messages to their classes on Class Dojo and this will now be the platform that we use to set work on a more regular basis and communicate with families and children. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THIS EMAIL, PLEASE EMAIL THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO LET US KNOW [contact.us@stjamespri.uk](mailto:contact.us@stjamespri.uk).

Each week, staff will share work/activities with their class. We are hoping that this will be Mondays so that activities can be set for the week ahead. However, in some year groups (ie. Year 6) this may be more regular.

The activities will feature English, Maths and topic related activities which have been created by the teachers within that year group. Some of these activities utilise our online subscription services (such as TT Rockstars), free to use online resources (such as White Rose Maths) and other offline activities.

## Additional Resources

In addition, to support the delivery of remote education, the Oak National Academy has launched an online learning platform. This has been created by 40 teachers and backed by government grant funding. It will provide 180 video lessons each week, across a broad range of subjects from Maths to Art to languages, for every year group from Reception. Please ensure that you log into Class Dojo as teachers may request that certain activities from this platform are completed. However, there is a complete sequence of lessons available, including video teaching content and quizzes that parents can follow if you would like to.

More information can be accessed here:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Also, the BBC has released a new resource on its BBC Bitesize site. You'll find daily lessons for home schooling in Maths and English for every year group, as well as regular lessons in Science, History, Geography and more. Each lesson has a focus and a range of activities are provided. Simply click on the year group you need and daily lessons are prepared for each subject. You can follow these. Again, please check Class Dojo as teachers may request certain activities in particular be completed from this site.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

As a school, we continue to emphasise the importance of times table practice and also regular reading at home. These should be an ongoing activity scheduled throughout the week and reading in particular, offers a chance to relax and unwind. We have a range of reading resources on our website.

## **Final thoughts**

All of the staff team at St James Primary School are thinking about our families within our community. The last few weeks have been very unusual without so many children and we are missing having everyone in the building giving it the lively and buzzing atmosphere that makes our school so special.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs McGregor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M' and 'G'.

Mrs McGregor

**HEADTEACHER**