

Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell  
*ST JAMES CE PRIMARY SCHOOL*



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*Headteacher: Mrs C McGregor*

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Dear parents and carers

#### **SUPPORT PARENTS WITH HOME LEARNING**

The DfE have published guidance to support parents and carers while staying at home due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Parents and carers will be concerned about their children's education and the impact of missing school. The full document is available in the home learning tab on the school website. It states:

***No one expects parents to act as teachers, or to provide the activities and feedback that a school would. Parents and carers should do their best to help children and support their learning.***

I would like to reiterate this message. Home schooling is very difficult and there is no expectation that children will be receiving the same level of education at home as they do at school. What is more important is that your children are happy and are keeping themselves safe and busy doing lots of fun activities with their families. School will continue to provide work for children to do as outlined yesterday to maintain some sort of routine but this will be completed in a range of different ways and level of detail in different households - and that is fine.

We understand that there are some families that have more than one child in the household and will be trying to manage multiple children's home learning. There will also be parents who are working from home and trying to look after and home educate their own children at the same time. I have to say that home learning in my own household is pretty limited because of this and the difficulties of managing it. Parents should not feel guilty about this and there is no pressure from school. All children all over the world are going through the same thing and I don't want parents to feel worried about their children falling behind. Teachers will rise to the challenge when children eventually come back into school and ensure children catch up in no time.

In the meantime, here is a little advice released by the DfE to support parents and carers with home learning during this time.

#### **Structuring the day**

Do not worry about trying to maintain a full routine for your child like they had at school. But children will feel more comfortable and learn better with a predictable routine to the day, even if this is difficult.

Try to make sure that they:

- get up and go to bed at the same time each day
- have regular meal times
- have regular breaks
- make time to be active - children are used to regular play at lunch and break times

### **Use of Digital Devices**

In terms of using digital devices set appropriate parental controls on any devices your child is using and supervise their use of websites and apps.

Try to reduce screen time by:

- using books and other printed materials if available
- write by hand – try asking them to complete work by hand, write a diary, a summary of things they have learned or done each day or ‘to do’ lists
- be active and get away from the screen regularly
- stop using digital devices at least an hour before bed

### **Reception, year 1 and year 2 children**

The best way to help children aged 4 to 7 learn is to:

- sit with them as they work
- do active and practical things, rather than trying to make them sit and listen for long periods
- try to break down the work into shorter periods, based on how long they can concentrate
- take frequent breaks
- praise or reward them when they do well

### **Year 3 to 6 children**

The best way to help children aged 7 to 11 learn is to:

- give them support and direction, but encourage them to do work independently too
- include active and practical things, rather than trying to make them sit and work for long periods
- try to break down the work into shorter periods, based on how long they can concentrate
- take frequent breaks
- praise or reward them when they do well

To check if they are learning try to:

- ask them questions as they go
- talk about things they learned

### **Information for parents of year 6 children**

Year 6 children (aged 10 to 11) should continue doing any work set for them by school.

To prepare for going to secondary school this can be a good time for them to follow their own interests. For example, for:

- history, by visiting the English Heritage website to explore England’s history
- geography, by researching other countries
- science, by finding out more about the human body on BBC Bitesize
- art, by trying the activities on TATE Kids

For more detailed advice, go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19> or click on the home learning tab on the school website.

Also, please continue to check in with Class Dojo where your child's class teacher will be setting work for your children.

We thank you for your continued support and commitment during this difficult time.

Kind regards

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

Mrs C McGregor  
**HEADTEACHER**