

18 .3.20



Dear Parents & Carers,

We have been working on a contingency plan should a school closure situation arise. We see the sense in having schools open for as long as possible and **will not close until we have to**. However, some children are already in isolation with their families so we have decided to implement the contingency plan now.

Today all children will be taking home an exercise book with a suggested age appropriate timetable inside it as well as their online passwords (Year 4 & Year R will get theirs tomorrow). If your child is not at school, please try to arrange for this book to be picked up from the school office. As this is a first time situation, it could work well to **set up a school desk/ area for them to work at during this time** and remind them that on Monday to Friday, they will **continue a school routine** (use the timetables in their exercise books to guide this routine). **Doing this from day 1** (start as you mean to go on) will set the standard for your child so please try to make sure they treat these as 'home school' days. You might want to work out a timetable together- this will help them to have a structured day and not get bored wondering what they should do first or next. At school, the children have 15 minutes break time in the morning, 15 minutes for KS1 children in the afternoon plus an hour lunch break for everyone. If it helps, remind your children that the teachers are expecting them to complete the set activities.

Of course, if your child is unwell, they will not be expected to do the assigned tasks- please date and note any illness time in their exercise books.

On the school website 'class' pages (www.stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk/website), teachers have set work for the children which will be updated regularly so that children will have access to a school plan from home. This includes important exercise time and ideas for 'at home' structured P.E. lessons (2 hours recommended a week for P.E.). If some of the work is worksheet material and you have not got a printer, please ask your child to copy down as many of the questions they can within the recommended time frame. Please ask children to record all work in their school exercise book and return this to the teacher when school reopens.

Teachers will be contactable during working hours via school email addresses- please use the teacher's first initial, a dot and then surname followed by: @stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk (eg. a.pickavance@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk). Please note, due to safeguarding, **children can only send emails via their parent's email address.**

Should you find other educational activities or projects which interest your child during this time, please feel free to do these in the afternoon sessions using the school books for any recording or a book of their own should you wish. It is helpful to **date all work.**

Most importantly of all, we hope everyone will be as well as expected during this unknown time and ask everyone to pray for all our school family to return safely together in the future. God bless us all.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Christopher