

Dear Families

I hope this email finds you all well and safe and you have been able to find your own unique ways to celebrate Easter as we all adapt to this new world of learning and being.

We are certainly thinking of you all and as a staff team we are missing having the children in school.

As the 'official' Easter holiday comes to an end, I would like to share our plans with you:

-Every Friday you will receive your weekly **Whole School Newsletter** from me - this week's bumper edition includes information on **how we would like to stay in touch with you** - see attached.

-Every Monday you will receive a **Class Newsletter** (one for each year group) which is aimed at your children to enjoy (the first edition will be with you by 9.00am tomorrow morning). This will include a **learning guide with a suggested timetable** - to support you in establishing routines at home for the weeks ahead. This learning is planned by your child's class teacher, with age related expectations, to support your set up at home. You will receive a new learning guide every week.

I would like to make it very clear at the outset that this **learning guide** is available for you if you find it helpful – many of you will have your own routines established and if this is working for you- please carry on – do upload pictures of anything exciting your children are achieving! This **learning guide** can be dipped into, adapted or fully completed. We want to offer our support in a way that works for you and your family.

We understand that the needs of every family will be very different – varying from internet access, not enough devices, parents adapting to working at home and juggling the needs of different aged children – it is challenging for all of us and it is okay not to be okay! If you require something specific, do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone and hopefully I can help or point you in the right direction.

Our priority is the well-being of all our children and for you – our families – to be able to cope during this heightened and challenging 'lockdown' time. Many of you know how best to deliver that for your family. If you get some learning done along the way – great, but do not cause yourself unnecessary stress worrying about the learning, we will pick this up when we are able to return to school. Hold your family close and do the things you enjoy to get through this as best you can. Children learn in many different ways – if you are playing with your children, cooking together, learning vital life skills – this is all learning - encourage writing and maths opportunities from these real experiences! Encourage your child to keep a daily diary if you prefer. This is a situation that has been forced on us all and we are not

expecting children to be replicating a full school day at home – it is not possible! For many of us, it is getting through each day – one day at a time - as we all deal with very different challenges.

With this in mind, we have agreed the following guidelines for our staff to work towards

- To promote positive mental health and well-being in children and families
- To continue to develop children's thinking and reasoning skills - fun weekly activities and challenges on the newsletter and website
- To provide opportunities for children to revisit and consolidate knowledge already taught to achieve fluency in reading and number calculations
- To provide entertainment for children so that adults can work
- To promote positive family relationships
- To maintain the school community of St Day and Carharrack

These guidelines will help us to support your home learning – so together we can meet the needs of your children - through a suggested weekly **learning guide**, newsletters and phone calls.

## **HELPFUL POINTERS FOR LEARNING AT HOME**

- Motivation is key and regular sessions each day will help with this.
- If your child feels saturated, try a different task.
- Reward the effort made.
- Learning time needs to have a different feel to 'free' time. Perhaps a quiet time without chatter to help your child focus?
- Read the task in advance of your child so you have an idea of what they need to do. We do not expect parents to teach new concepts – teachers are preparing activities that consolidate learning previously taught in class
- If you have several children can the older children support the younger ones?
- Make sure there is a balance to the day with plenty of exercise.
- Have a mixture of creativity and online tasks.
- If you are not sure your child is producing 'good enough' results do not worry. This is about keeping learning going and keeping engagement in high quality activities.
- If your child is struggling, reassure them. We often use the phrase, "You haven't got it yet...".

## **A SUGGESTED GUIDE TO CREATING YOUR OWN TIME TABLE**

- Create your timetable/structure for the day together with your child, plan fun times for everyone.
- Let your child choose activities for their free time.
- See the attached timetables as examples.

- 1 – 2 hours of learning each day with your daily exercise on top will keep everything active!
- Remember learning does not have to involve sitting at a table completing worksheets. Involve your children in daily life skills including daily chores to help around the house!
- Balance online and offline activities to avoid too much screen time.

If you require more structure or would like additional support, please email your class teacher. If the above looks too daunting – the minimum expectations to keep learning ticking over- would be:

- **Read, read and read** some more with your children every day. Enjoy this – this is a gift which makes a massive difference to your child's life chances! If you are struggling with reading – please talk to your child's teacher for support and ensure your child listens to an audible book every day. See the newsletter for a great tip to improve your child's reading while they watch the TV - TOTS!
- **Knowing times tables** inside out- if your child came back to school knowing all of their times tables – that would be amazing! Encourage your child to practise their tables every day – on and off line. There are many fun ways to do this! Use a pack of playing cards – turn two random cards over, the first person to multiply the cards together wins the cards. How many cards can you win?

### **Emails and Phonecalls**

This is our main way of maintaining positive relationships, celebrating learning and supporting learning. Please bear in mind that many teachers have their own families and will be working strange hours at home. We are trying to answer emails during the school day but sometimes you may not receive a reply until the following day. Please also respect that teachers will be opening emails in their home and our policy of 'dignity at work' remains in place. We will not hesitate to block anyone sending abusive or inappropriate emails and you will be directed to the website to access all future communications. If you have a complaint, it can be emailed to the secretary in the first instance and Hayley Uren will ensure it reaches me during the school day. We understand this is a difficult time for many families and staff, we are here to support you but we will not tolerate abusive emails. On the other hand, we are very appreciative of the positive emails we have received – thank you for taking the time to communicate with us.

This is new to all of us and we know that we are going to need to reflect on where we are and how we want to move forward. Please do not hesitate to get in contact by email if you require something specific or have any suggestions. There are so many amazing websites addressing every learning need you can imagine and offering free support and access to resources. Keep checking our website for the latest updates.

We want to continue to support you and our children in any way we can.

Enjoy the newsletter. Many thanks and best wishes to you all,