



Newsletter - Friday 27th March 2020

Dear parents,

I don't know about you, but I have found these last two weeks pretty strange.

Thank you for all your lovely "get well soon" messages. I am healing well – my face is almost back to normal. My shoulder is also feeling better, although only having one useable arm does have its drawbacks. In a non-health related update, I am considering growing a "lockdown" beard to help pass the time.

Oh, and who has been into the supermarkets and bought all the bread flour (I realise it must be more than one person)?

Home learning

This has been a real change for children, parents and staff and I know some people are finding it difficult. I have been incredibly impressed with how the teachers have adapted to the situation. Please do get in touch with your class teacher if you need any help or support and please keep sending in your learning to your teachers. We are all here to help.

I would also like to reassure you about our expectations. This is a difficult time for all of us, and we understand how challenging it can be for parents in many different ways. Our home learning is not meant to add to that list of pressures. English and Maths are important, but if you miss some learning sometimes or do a family project instead, or are working from home so struggling to find the necessary time to support your child as much as they need, then we do understand.

I recommend a daily timetable which gives plenty of down time – replicating a six hour school day at home will be very tricky for most of us, so just do what you can do in a way that works for you at home.

Getting in touch

If you need to phone the school please use the usual number, 01892 523006, but select option 1, as we have closed the junior building for the time being. You can email the school via the usual office address office@st-james.kent.sch.uk or contact your teachers via their email addresses.

During this school closure, there is still a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) on site every school day who can be contacted, using the school number, if you have any safeguarding concerns. Alternatively, you can contact Lucy Hayward, during office hours, by email: lhayward@st-james.kent.sch.uk.

Out of office hours and during school holidays, if you have any immediate safeguarding concerns, please contact Kent Front Door (emergency out of hours) on 03000 41 91 91. If you think someone is in immediate danger, the best thing to do is call 999 for the emergency services.

NHS

Even before the coronavirus outbreak, it was hard to imagine how any of us could feel any more positively about the NHS frontline workers than we already did. However, recent weeks have shown us again what an amazing team they are. We have parents from our school community in hospitals caring for very sick people and saving lives; I could not pass up an opportunity to pass on our deepest gratitude and admiration.



Building challenge (for the children)

Children, if you would like to take on a challenge over Easter, then try to build the tallest structure you can from anything you can find around the house. It must be freestanding and must not be made from building materials (no bricks and mortar, steel girders or long planks of wood). The largest building block allowed will be a cereal box. You can use junk, lego, twigs, cardboard tubes from the inside of toilet rolls (they should be plentiful) etc.

Once made, measure it then take a photo of the structure with you standing next to it. Please measure it while it is standing on the ground, either in your home or in the garden – no cheating by standing it on a table and then measuring it please.

Send in your photos to your teachers and they will forward me the winners from each class.

Thank you

I would like to end by thanking all the parents for the good wishes and supporting messages they have given the teachers this week. It has meant a lot to them.

Have a wonderful Easter holiday and I look forward to hearing from you again in a couple of weeks.

From your very proud headteacher,

John Tutt

