



St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy

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15th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

I would like to begin with a massive thank you to all the families who are working tirelessly to support with both in school and remote learning. Many of you have commented on the fantastic job staff are doing and we ask for your patience when the internet or technology does not work as intended. If there is a problem please contact the school office on office@stmaryscebl.info rather than interrupt the teacher during the lesson. The children, both in school and at home, are greatly impressing all staff with how they have adapted and engaged with their learning in these challenging times.

In School Learning

From next week we will be introducing the following adaptations to enhance the safety for everyone on our school site in line with PDET's health and safety advice following the January 2021 lockdown regarding the increased transmissibility of the new strain of coronavirus:

- Staff in school, unless exempt, will be wearing visors/ masks in classrooms and shared communal spaces.
- Parents/carers to wear masks when accessing the school site for drop offs or pick-ups, unless exempt from wearing them.
- Children to be dressed appropriately for cold weather due to the increased ventilation in the school building during the day. If you feel your child would benefit from having an additional fleece or jumper please send them in to school with them.

A reminder for everyone that each child needs to have their PE kit and a named water bottle in school.

Remote Teaching and Learning

To make the remote learning even more successful we ask that families ensure children are appropriately dressed, to have eaten before the live lessons and remind everyone to use appropriate language as everyone attending/listening to the live lesson can hear what is being said unless the device is on mute. Below is a reminder of the expectations for live learning for pupils from the guidance for remote learning that was shared last year, which can be found on the website, and ask families to revisit these with their children to ensure that when children are joining the live teaching they are able to participate fully and appropriately in the lessons.

Pupils:

- Treat your live sessions as you would any other lesson. Be on time and be prepared.
- Use the bathroom and eat before (not during) your session.
- If it is to be a lesson, be ready to learn and make sure you have class resources, pen / pencil / ruler / exercise book at hand.
- Make sure you are in a suitable location; your device is charged (or plugged in) and that you are suitably dressed, prior to the beginning of each session.
- Keep your device on a secure surface, such as a table.
- Check your camera and microphone are working, prior to the start of the session.
- If possible, you should wear a headset (ideally with a microphone) but this isn't essential.

- Remember to behave as you would in school / the academy and abide by the school's / academy's Acceptable Usage Policy and the school's / academy's behaviour rules.
- Chat functions should only be used to ask questions and to answer teacher questions as directed by the teacher.
- Raise your hand, if you have a question and use hand gestures to show understanding such as thumbs up or touching your ear for audio issues.
- Do not record or take photos of your classmates or teachers during a session.
- Listen, focus on the lesson and learn.
- Avoid distractions such as electronic devices.
- Mobile phones should not be in the room during the session apart to access the lesson.
- Respect your teacher, your fellow learners and yourself by doing your best, just as you would in class.
- Make sure you end the session as soon as your teacher indicates to do so.
- These rules are designed to help keep you safe and, if they are not followed, academy sanctions will be applied and your parents /carers may be contacted.

Remember your school / the academy is putting these sessions on for your benefit but not everyone who tries to contact you online has your interests at heart. If you have any worries or concerns about something that has happened to you online, please speak to your parents or contact us the academy on office@stmarysceb1.info.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E M Holt

