



Parent/Carer Guide to Distance Learning at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Until such time as St. Mary's can reopen for all pupils, we have implemented distance learning via Showbie. Following the guidance that we shared when schools initially closed, this guidance is to reinforce our intentions during this time and alert you to some changes which we hope will make your child's learning easier for parents at home, with the emphasis more on the teacher providing support. **Please confirm that you have read this document by alerting your teacher on Showbie or Tapestry.**

Whilst we would like the children to access the work provided, we do understand that at times this may not be possible due to access to a computer/tablet or parents' work commitments at home. It would be great if your child can access some of the guidance for home learning that will now be uploaded via video by their class teachers. Doing it this way will hopefully relieve some of the pressure that has been on parents to home-school. Parents / children can contact the teacher via Showbie or Tapestry if they need any help or support. **Above all, we do not want parents to feel under any pressure to deliver this learning to their children. Our main priority at this time is to ensure the safety and happiness of all our children.**

Where possible, the link teacher for your child will be their class teacher. There may be times however, due to illness or other commitments, when this is not possible. Our aim at these times is that the link teacher will be another staff member who the children know.

Aims

- To provide a continued quality education for all children in the St. Mary's community during the school closure.
- To provide a clear structure for education for children at St. Mary's.
- To provide support for the wellbeing of children and their families.
- To provide a platform for children to be able to communicate with their teacher and their year group peers.
- To provide a platform for parents/carers to be able to communicate with their child's teacher.

Showbie

Showbie will enable us to continue the education for St. Mary's children effectively while also maintaining quality teacher-pupil and teacher-parent/carers relationships at a distance.

These are some key functions of Showbie that we intend to use:

- Video broadcasting – Teachers can broadcast guidance for home learning to the children
- File share – Teachers can share documents, PowerPoints, photos and videos with groups or individual children

- Setting assignments – Teachers can set tasks for children that can be completed and returned, or a photo taken of the activity and sent to the teacher
- Instant Messaging - This can be for teachers to parents or children, and parents or children to teachers

Safety and Managing Risk

School responsibilities

- We have shared information about how to keep your child safe online on our website- please read this for support
- We will respond to and investigate reports of misuse/inappropriate use, swiftly implementing relevant consequences, if required
- We will terminate or 'mute' facilities if mis-used

Parent/carer responsibilities

- Parents/carers will try to ensure children have access to a computer/device for their home learning, and will support the completion of follow up tasks where possible. Please let us know if you need help with accessing a device.

What distance learning will involve

The videos will be accessible to the children in the year group outside of the timetabled sessions to allow maximum engagement opportunities.

Each week one video will be uploaded by either Mrs. Bolton or Mrs. Draycott via Showbie for a whole school community project. Examples of the children's work will then be shared via Facebook.

Reception Class

- A short video of the class teacher will be uploaded by 10.30am each day for the class. This video will explain the suggested activities for the day. It will also include a demonstration of how to pronounce the sound that the children will be learning in phonics.
- The activities will include phonics, maths and a variety of creative tasks linked to the current topic. They will suit all learning styles.
- Parents/carers can help children to respond to the tasks set with words or attachments (e.g. pictures or videos uploaded onto the child's own learning portfolio on Tapestry)

Reception Class Feedback

- The teacher will give feedback about the children's learning via Tapestry
- Teachers will alert the Head of School if there are any children who are not making regular contact via Tapestry. The Head of School will then contact these children by phone to make a check on their wellbeing

Reception Class Parent/Carer Communication

- Parents/carers can contact the teacher via Tapestry to ask any questions or share concerns. This is the virtual equivalent of the 'at the classroom door' communication

- Teachers will respond to parent/carer messages within 48 hours of receiving, during their working days (not including weekends).

Years 1-6

Year 1

- A short video of the class teacher will be uploaded by 10.30am each day for the class. This video will explain the suggested activities for the day. It will also include a demonstration of how to pronounce the sound that the children will be learning in phonics.
- The activities will include phonics, maths and a variety of creative tasks for the foundation subjects, linked to the current topic. They will suit all learning styles.
- Parents/carers can help children to respond by uploading their child's work via a photo or video for example.

Year 2 – Year 6

- A short video of the class teacher will be uploaded by 10.30am each day for the class. This video will explain the suggested activities for the day.
- These activities may include a reading/text focus, a writing focus, a mathematics focus, or a 'challenge' based focus on any other area of the curriculum, linked to the current topic.
- Year 6 children will be expected to work with greater independence and will be provided with a greater selection of activities from which to make their own choices about their learning.
- The activities/ work can be photographed and submitted to the teacher for comments.

Feedback for Year 1 – Year 6

- Teachers will comment on responses from the children as and when they submit their work, within 48 hours.
- Teachers will alert the Head of School if there are any children who are not making regular contact via Showbie. The Head of School will then contact these children by phone to make a check on their wellbeing

Years 1-6 Parent/Carer Communication

- Parents/carers can contact teachers using Showbie to ask any questions or share concerns.
- Teachers will respond to parent messages within 48 hours of receiving, during their working days (not including weekends).