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Dear Parents and Carers

Although changes to the lockdown may be in sight it is still at least a few weeks away, so we are continuing to do our best to help you and your children to study at home. It is not the same as school but we are very grateful to you for helping us so magnificently with the tricky job of distance learning. We hope you and the children have enjoyed the new online Oak Academy lessons and videos as well as reading the uplifting letters from their class teachers.

It is especially important to be kind to yourselves and others at the moment. We all inevitably have some days that are better than others. Where you can, be kind. If you feel cross or grumpy, take five or ten minutes aside. Don't be overly hard on yourself – it is not normal to be living in each other's pockets (figuratively speaking) without the occasional space you would normally have. Where you can, keep in touch with friends and family. That call you make or the note you write might make their day - any form of regular contact is very important.

Learning from Home

As you know the staff continue to work hard from behind the scenes creating the weekly Learning from Home pages which can be found on the front page of our school website.

Last week we mentioned that from Monday the 27th April we would be making some further adjustments to our provision in line with the Government's latest recommendations. To remind you, the Government has worked with schools across the country to create a set of daily lessons in English, Maths and another foundation subject. This initiative is being called the Oak National Academy. The Government is recommending that schools use these carefully planned and sequenced lessons for children's learning from home. These lessons helpfully include videos with expert teachers and we have now uploaded these to our school website in Learning from Home pages. One of the strengths of these lessons is that they closely resemble a lesson in school. For example, the online teachers ask the children to repeat or rehearse a learning point or pause to write something down. The lessons also include lots of opportunities to learn new vocabulary across the subjects. In addition, the lessons are sequential and progressive which will help the children to know more and remember more as they go along. This week we included the first of our online digital diaries, which we hope you and your children found useful in raising awareness of their own online activity. Please also find at the end of this letter Top 10 Tips for Remote Learning for Parents.

As always however, we do understand that you have busy households to run, jobs to juggle and families to care for, so please just do what fits in best with your own personal circumstances.

Our teachers will continue to communicate with their classes through writing a letter from time to time. We are all very much enjoying looking at photos of your learning from home.

Childcare update

St George's staff continue to be busy attending the childcare hubs as part of the cluster of neighbouring Westminster schools. Our grateful thanks to the staff for providing childcare for vulnerable children and children of key workers. We are very proud of you.

Contacts you may find useful

Please see next attachment.

Online learning resources

We have had a few queries about what Purple Mash and Oxford Reading Buddy are and how to use them. Hopefully, the information below should be informative and helpful.

What is Purple Mash?

Purple Mash is a comprehensive suite of online learning tools and content, designed to be used by Primary aged children in the classroom and at home.

Personalised St. George's login link:

<https://www.purplemash.com/sch/stgeorgesw1k>

Where to start?

It's a good idea to log in to Purple Mash with your child.

We suggest the following:

- Familiarising yourself with the menu icons.
- Looking at any set tasks that have been given to your child (2Dos)
- Exploring the grammar, maths and spelling activities which match to the National Curriculum
- Play one of many fun, educational collaborative games such as 2Race
- Delve into the Science area and find out about all the areas of Science it covers
- Investigate the Topics area to support securing their knowledge of the wider curriculum
- Tour the Computing area trying out some of the tools such as 2Code, 2Go and Logo
- Get creative in the Tools section, from making an animation to building a printable 3D model
- Learn through play in Mini Mash (For children aged 3 to 5).

How can you get more involved? As a parent, you can find out about your child's learning on Purple Mash and support them beyond the classroom by registering with Parent Portal. Parent Portal allows you to easily see the learning your child has been doing on Purple Mash, 2DOs set by teachers, rewards and much more.

You can start using Parent Portal today by following the 3 simple steps below.

Step 1: Enter URL on your child's login card.

Step 2: Click 'Register as a parent'.

Step 3: Enter the 'Parent Code' on your child's login card and follow additional instructions.

Please note that we are asking teachers and children to adhere to our online safety policy with regards to communication using our online resources. Therefore, teachers may send brief comments and are not offering feedback on learning completed at this time.

If you have any questions regarding Purple Mash please do not hesitate to contact the office at office@sghsprimary.co.uk.

What is Oxford Reading Buddy?

Oxford Reading Buddy is a digital reading service to help your child to develop important skills in reading and to encourage them to read more. It contains hundreds of digital books, all matched to your child's reading level. It offers special Coaching eBooks to develop comprehension.

How do you log in?

Visit the ORB website and log in using your child's username, password and school code:

<https://www.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/uk>

What are Coaching eBooks?

The Coaching eBooks contain a Reading Buddy, a fun friendly character who children can choose themselves and who prompts and models specific comprehension strategies. Your child's buddy will also ask questions and give tailored feedback.

How do you use the quizzes?

At the end of every book is a quiz which children should try to complete on their own. Their results will be sent to their teacher so that they can track your child's progress against key comprehension skills. When your child has met certain quiz-result thresholds they will be moved up to the next Oxford Level.

What are Oxford Levels?

All the books and quizzes on Oxford Reading Buddy are carefully levelled according to Oxford University Press's levelling structure, Oxford Levels. This means that the books to which your child has access will have just the right amount of support and challenge to ensure that they can read successfully, build confidence and make progress. A variety of factors determine the level of a book including phonic knowledge, vocabulary, sentence length, number of words on a page and use of illustrations. The maturity of the content is also considered, as well as how much comprehension and inference a book asks the reader to do. In Oxford Reading Buddy children move through levels automatically based on the numbers of books read and quiz scores achieved.

Comprehension Skills and Strategies

Comprehension is the most important aspect of reading once basic decoding skills have been grasped. Oxford Reading Buddy helps your child to learn vital comprehension skills and strategies.

The Reading Buddy in the Coaching eBooks encourages your child to actively use comprehension strategies during reading to help them understand a text. There are seven key strategies and they are: check it makes sense, look for clues, decide main points, notice text features, question and predict, picture in your mind and think and remember. Encourage your child to listen to the Buddy prompts and use these strategies in all their reading.

Skills are abilities that can be used after reading to answer questions about the text. All the quiz questions in Oxford Reading Buddy relate to one of five key comprehension skills and children are assessed against these skills. These are: finding information, making connections and inferences, understanding vocabulary, using structure and organisation to make meaning and understanding and appreciating author toolkit.

Badges

Your child may earn badges for good reading behaviour, such as doing well in a quiz or listening to the Reading Buddy Prompts in the Coaching eBooks. You can see a record of the badges your child has earned for each Oxford Level they have completed by selecting **Badges** at the top of the screen.

How can you find out more?

For a more detailed view on using Oxford Reading Buddy, read this presentation:

http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/oxford-reading-buddy/customer_introduction_parent_carers.pdf.

If you have any questions regarding Oxford Reading Buddy please do not hesitate to contact the office at office@sghsprimary.co.uk.

Collective Worship ideas

Please see Collective Worship plan below for this week which can be used by families at home.

We have missed you all and without doubt, you have missed each other. It feels incredibly strange and unusual to have to keep our distance from each other and the people we care about but by keeping this up all together, the sooner we'll be back in school to learn and laugh.

Thinking of you all and sending you smiles and warm wishes

Let your light shine in the world as Jesus did, with compassion, thankfulness and hope.

Mrs Harris and Ms Slater

10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.



Recognising

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him and he disappeared from their sight.

Luke 24: 30 – 31



In this picture, we see two of Jesus' disciples walking back from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. They are talking about all that has happened. Jesus appears alongside them, but they do not recognise him.

Equipment:

- Photo of you
- Paper
- Pens/pencils/colouring pencils

Instructions:

- During the quiet reflection time, place the photo of you in the centre of your circle. If you are alone, place the photo in front of you.
- **After the reflection, it is time for you to do an activity:**
Think of a moment in your life that you would like to share with someone else. It could be when you celebrated your Birthday. It could be an occasion you enjoyed sharing with your family - a trip to the park/a holiday. It could be the day a new member of your family was born.
Options: Draw a picture of the occasion/write about that occasion and how it made you feel/write a poem or song about the occasion.
- Share your work with someone in your family. By sharing it, you are telling them about something that is important to you, that makes you unique and that they can recognise you by.

Reflection: Begin by watching one or both of these clips

Recommended for: EYFS, K.S 1 and Year 3 and 4

[Road To Emmaus I Stories of Jesus I Animated Children's Bible Stories | Holy Tales Bible Stories](#)

Year 5 and 6

[Road to Emmaus by John Henderson](#)

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus shares with the two disciples his story. He speaks to them about Moses and the prophets and he explains to them that all that they had read about Christ suffering and entering into glory, was about himself. The disciples do not recognise Jesus until he takes the bread, says the blessing, breaks it and hands it to them. At this point, the disciples' eyes were opened and they recognised him.

How do we recognise God in our own lives? How do we know he is with us? Do we sometimes, like the disciples, walk by, miss or ignore his presence?

Jesus shared his story with his disciples. We all have our own life stories to tell which are important to us. People know who we are because they recognise us by what we look like but also through our story. What makes each one of us precious and unique, is our own story that only we can tell.

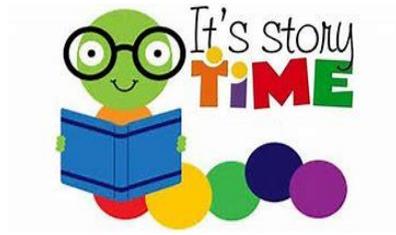
Time to be still and quiet:

When you are ready, place your photo in the middle of the circle. If you are with your family, share with them, an occasion in your life that makes you feel happy when you remember it. If you are alone, look at your photo now and think about an occasion in your life that makes you feel happy when you remember it.

I invite you to say this prayer: Dear God, thank you that you know each one of us by name. You recognise us and love us. Thank you that each one of us has our own important story to tell. Give us the confidence to share our story with others. Amen

(Scroll down for a template to complete the activity on.)

My story



Enjoy writing about an occasion that brings back happy memories and you would like to share with others.

It is your story that people recognise you by.

