

St George's Hanover Square CE School, South St, Mayfair, London W1K 2XH

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Harris **Head of School:** Ms Petra Slater

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this finds you well and staying safe in the middle of these extraordinary times. By now we expect you may have found a new routine to your daily lives: shopping trips standing at a two metre distance from others in a queue, a daily walk of some kind and connecting with friends and family online in new ways.

We are all adjusting to new ways of living and being and this is not always easy. Some of you may be caring for children or other relatives. Some of you just may be feeling a bit out of sorts. This is entirely normal and to be expected at this point. Please see link below for resources which may be helpful.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Some of you may have even taken up a new hobby or interest. Please see links below for some ideas of online resources you might like to peruse.

<https://chatterpack.net/blogs/blog/list-of-online-resources-for-anyone-who-is-isolated-at-home>

Learning from Home update

The teachers have been working hard to develop Learning from Home materials. Thank you for the positive feedback we have received during the past few days. We are aware that we cannot please everybody, but please be assured that we are doing our best.

We want to provide some materials which run and repeat through each week. This will help the children with their learning as they will be able to know more and remember more. We have also provided a menu of other activities which you can dip in and out of in a flexible way which suits your own household.

Please look out for new materials posted in the Learning from Home section all about '**Keeping our minds and bodies healthy**'. Please see Coronavirus factsheet at the end of this letter.

As you know, we have taken the government and teaching unions advice to provide learning resources that will **keep children busy and enjoying learning, while providing flexibility for parents.**

We have followed the advice for Headteachers around home learning so that:

- Lots of the activities are things that the children can get on with on their own.
- There are flexible tasks that cover different areas of the curriculum, allowing children to choose the tasks that interest them, and the ones parents feel they can manage.
- The tasks can be completed in bite sized chunks enabling flexibility for your households.
- Teachers are not live-streaming lessons because online lessons are not desirable for primary children as the teacher-pupil interaction is not easily replicated. We agree with this.
- Many children need a lot of guidance when working and cannot be left for long periods of time to complete complex tasks, so we have devised activities that the children can complete on their own, whilst recognising many parents and carers are also trying to work from home and struggle to assist with school work.
- We understand that parents cannot be expected to become teachers.

- We have also devised tasks that do not need the internet or a device such as a laptop or tablet, as some children and families will not have internet access or more than one device to use.
- We realise that it is most beneficial and realistic to offer a variety of tasks which are done working at a table or while moving around, including creative tasks.

Childcare for vulnerable and children of key workers

After the Easter break, staff return to work on Monday the 20th April when St George’s Hanover Square School becomes the host school for the cluster group of Westminster schools.

The childcare provision is for children whose parents are key workers. It depends heavily on the capacity of our dedicated staff teams in each school and will not be successful if it is taken advantage of by any parents who do not truly need help in these extraordinary times. Please do not use a space for your child if you do not truly need it – these spaces have to be for children of parents whose jobs play a vital part in the country’s approach in dealing with this challenging situation.

We are running this scheme to save lives and request that parents only use it if they meet all necessary criteria. The Department for Education states:

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your child will be prioritised for provision.

With warmest wishes to you and your loved ones.

Mrs Harris, Executive Headteacher and Ms Slater, Head of School

NHS
CORONAVIRUS
Fact sheet for kids

WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?
A coronavirus is a type of virus. Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus, which means no-one has caught it before and our bodies are not immune (protected) from it yet. It spreads very quickly and is making a lot of people poorly at the moment.

HOW DOES A VIRUS WORK?

1. Your body is made up of millions of tiny cells.
2. Viruses can't survive outside the body for long, so they try to get into our cells.
3. When viruses get inside our cells, we get infected.
4. Once a cell is 'infected', the virus multiplies and can spread around the body.
5. Our body produces antibodies that fight the virus and help us get better.

WHY IS CORONAVIRUS DANGEROUS?
If the virus gets into the cells in our lungs, it can stop the cells from doing their job, which is to help us breathe.

WHO CAN CATCH IT?
Children can catch the virus just as easily as adults, but it doesn't make them as poorly.
Adults who are already poorly and elderly people are the most affected, but most people can get better from it.

HOW CAN WE PROTECT OURSELVES?

The virus can spread very easily and we carry it and pass it onto others even if we don't feel poorly ourselves.

There are 2 important things we can do to protect ourselves, our friends and our family.



WASH YOUR HANDS

Washing your hands with soap and water helps get rid of the virus. This will prevent the virus from getting into our bodies and spreading to other people. Let's all remind one another to wash our hands!



AVOID OTHER PEOPLE

To stop the virus spreading, we need to keep away from other people and stay at home for a time. But don't worry - life will go back to normal!

HOW ARE SCIENTISTS TRYING TO KEEP US SAFE?

Scientists are working hard to find a Coronavirus vaccine. A vaccine can help protect the body from being infected.



REMEMBER

IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW CATCHES CORONAVIRUS.