

# St. Mary's Mail



Date: 15th January 2021

St Mary's during Lockdown

Alongside this email you would have received an email containing the home learning timetables for next week. As promised, I have pulled together some frequently asked questions which I have set out below.

I hope you are all well and are managing at home. Please reach out to us if you need support.

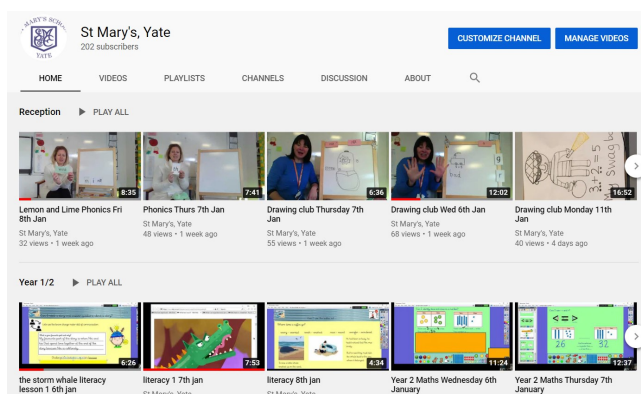
Mrs B Scriven

## Why have you chosen to do pre-recorded lessons?

You will likely be aware that every school has a slightly different approach to home learning. One of the main reasons behind our rationale for choosing the pre-recording of core subjects is to enable ease of access to all families at home, with pre-recorded lessons available on a number of different devices (laptops, tablets, Smart TV, phone).

Having a pre-recorded session also enables children the opportunity to work through a lesson at their own pace, pausing or rewinding if they need to hear an explanation for a second time.

Having a pre-recorded video also means that you can plan your day around other things happening in your household whether that is live learning sessions for siblings or parents' work commitments.



## Is my child expected to engage in all the learning that is being provided?

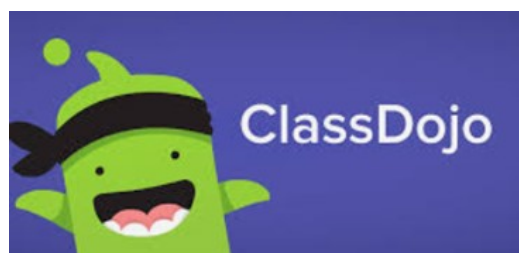
All staff members are working extremely hard in order to plan, prepare and deliver online lessons, whether pre-recorded Maths and English lessons, or live guided reading sessions.

These lessons are following a 'continuous learning' model which means we are carrying on with the curriculum that they would be having in school. We do not know how long the children will be out of school on this occasion and they have already missed learning last year. We are therefore expecting all children to engage in the English and Maths lessons that they are being provided with as well as the phonics/guided reading sessions. We are monitoring all children's engagement levels and whether they are completing the work that is set for them using class Dojo.

In the first instance, if we feel that a child is not completing the work being set, we will look to contact the parents/carers to ascertain if there are any difficulties that they may be experiencing and we will look to resolve any issues together to enable the child to complete their work.

We appreciate that the home environment and children working at home can be very difficult, so if you have any individual concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. A discussion can take place about what is expected to be produced across the whole day.

For those families where the engagement levels are extremely low and this does not improve, despite a meeting with school and not reaching a suitable conclusion, a referral to the local authority EWO (Educational Welfare Officer) can be made by the school, to look at what else can be achieved in a more



### Why does my child need to be at the Zoom check in and check out?

The Zoom calls are important for a number of reasons. Firstly your child's teacher is really missing those children who are not in school and this is one way that relationships can continue to be developed, and so live interaction is really important for this. The morning check in also enables teachers to set up the day and inform the children what is coming up, in case there are any uncertainties about what is expected. A morning attendance register is being taken and we are monitoring which children are accessing this check in, as it enables us to see if there are any families who may need additional support.



The Zoom check out is also really important as it allows the children to share the successes of the day and the teacher to again have live interaction with their class. This may enable them to talk about any key difficulties that may have been experienced or any questions that the children may want to raise. It is also a chance for the teacher to share how great the children have been, inside and outside the classroom.

If you are having difficulties for any reason around these Zoom calls, please let the class teacher know via Dojo or phone the office.

Zoom is proving to be very popular and has been a great resource over the lockdowns. Below are some things to consider when children are on Zoom virtual lessons, especially where webcams are involved:

**Children must have their name identified on the Zoom call, we will not allow people into a Zoom meeting with names that are unfamiliar to the class teacher. This helps us to ensure safeguarding procedures and is part of our school risk assessment for online learning for groups of children. If your family is sharing a device, the family surname is enough.**

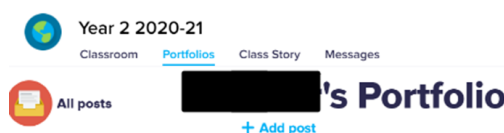
- If a staff member is holding a live session online, and there is not another member of staff available, then the meeting must be held with a parent present in the vicinity, especially in a 1:1 Zoom meeting for children with an EHCP. Staff members who are live teaching a guided group will ensure there is a ratio of at least 1 adult to 3 children, and that at least one adult is within the same room as the child.
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, and anyone else in the household should be dressed appropriately, and be free from any other distractions.
- Computers used should be in appropriate areas, for example, not in bedrooms. Common rooms, such as the lounge, dining room, or kitchen is an appropriate area.
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including by any family members in the background.

For further details about our zoom protocols please see the school website. Please note that, as the lockdown was unplanned, consent for use on Zoom will be implied by children joining the session and that you are in the vicinity of the device. By following a link sent to parents' email or class dojo you are consenting to this, and to supervising your children.

### Do we have to upload work on Class Dojo and Tapestry?

When children have completed a piece of work, we do expect them to upload their work to Class Dojo and Tapestry for staff to look at and in some cases make explicit feedback on. In the original guidance we asked for work to be uploaded by 12:30pm but please note **we**

**do not expect** this to always happen and **we are very flexible** on when the work can be uploaded. We would appreciate all work being **uploaded on the day it was set**, as this enables staff to see that it has been completed. It also enables us to measure the



### I am concerned about the amount of screen time my child is having

The initial work that has been provided has, like in the vast majority of schools, been online. We appreciate that this is a lot of screen time and so we are looking at different ways of providing sessions, which enables children to have time away from the screen, such as PE or Art lessons. These may need to be delivered on a screen, but time will then be taken away from the device to complete an activity. The key thing is to build in regular breaks for the children. The time that children are taking on a piece of work will vary, but shouldn't last any longer than 1 hour. If there is a concern around this please let us know.

**A note about e-safety:** With the children spending more time online over this period, please can we also remind you around the importance of e-safety. Today we are also sending home a poster with 10 tips for safe home learning, but can we particularly remind parents of the need to ensure that children are working in an open space in the house, where it is possible to easily keep an eye on their learning and be available quickly should they encounter any difficulties.

### Why is a timetable given at the start of the week with only a few links? Why can we not have all the links for the whole week?

As you can imagine, the teachers are working tirelessly to ensure that they are able to teach both the critical workers' children in school, as well as providing excellent teaching and learning opportunities for children at home. The work that is being delivered in the core subjects Maths and English, is following a very clear sequence of lessons, which provides good learning from day to day. Teachers need time to plan, prepare, record and upload these lessons (which can take a long time) as well as continue to teach children in school. This is why you will find that core lessons at the end of the week may not yet be recorded. Using assessment knowledge and looking at children's work that has been uploaded, teachers may find that a lesson has to be adapted, so will not pre-record all sessions at the beginning of the week.

Mon				L		
Tues				U		
Wed	Meeting ID: 839 0401 1720 Passcode: 92Pw2C	Recognise equal groups <a href="https://youtu.be/5R5Gba134">https://youtu.be/5R5Gba134</a>	Key features of instructions <a href="https://youtu.be/5R5Gba134">https://youtu.be/5R5Gba134</a>	N	Geography: Oceans and Seas Lesson 1 <a href="https://classroom.thematerialacademy/lessons/what-are-oceans-crype">https://classroom.thematerialacademy/lessons/what-are-oceans-crype</a>	Meeting ID: 885 4072 8421 Passcode: Dn52U
Thurs	Meeting ID: 839 0401 1720 Passcode: 92Pw2C	To be recorded	To be recorded	C	Science: Human Lifestyle Lesson 1 <a href="https://classroom.thematerialacademy/lessons/what-are-the-different-parts-of-the-human-body-70uk65?activity=video&amp;step=1">https://classroom.thematerialacademy/lessons/what-are-the-different-parts-of-the-human-body-70uk65?activity=video&amp;step=1</a>	Meeting ID: 885 4072 8421 Passcode: Dn52U
Fri	Meeting ID: 839 0401 1720 Passcode: 92Pw2C	To be recorded	To be recorded	H	PSH: I know my rights Lesson 1 <a href="https://classroom.thematerialacademy/units/i-know-my-rights.c133">https://classroom.thematerialacademy/units/i-know-my-rights.c133</a>	Meeting ID: 885 4072 8421 Passcode: Dn52U

### Safeguarding

As you know, safeguarding and keeping children safe is our number one priority in school. It is very important to remember that children are using online platforms a lot more than they would possibly be doing. Please be vigilant in ensuring that your children are not accessing other areas of the internet, which may be inappropriate. All our videos are uploaded to our school YouTube page and we direct you to specific links, but it is important to still supervise your children when they are using online platforms, and for you to remind your child of the e-safety rules that they covered as a whole school in Computing in Term 1. Please see below further links on how to keep your child safe online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

### Why are you not printing out worksheets for us to collect?

In October every child received a pack of books to use in the event of a school closure. The rationale behind this was to reduce the amount of printing parents would need to do to work at home, as we know that some families do not have access to a printer. With every member of staff either in class or recording lessons, unfortunately we do not have the capacity to print out all work sheets. This is why we have enabled the flipcharts to have the questions in and is also another reason for pre-recorded videos. For those children who we feel do need some adaptation of the curriculum this will be arranged separately.



**How long are you expecting children to work for? What is a good routine to have?**

Government guidance recommends that KS1 children should be working for up to 3 hours a day and KS2 children 4 hours a day. With the timetable of lessons that we have structured we feel that more than enough lessons are provided. However, you will find a balance that will work for you at home, in your individual environment. We would urge you to speak to your child's teacher if you have worries, and we can talk to you about some ideas around structuring and timetabling the day with lots of breaks throughout for the children. Different families will find different routines work for you and your children. Alongside this, we have attached an EFF (Education Endowment Foundation) document to help you plan your day.

**Could we have some Zoom 'fun' sessions?**

As we become more accustomed to our timetables and find a structure to the day, staff are looking at developing more activities to help with social and communication skills. This is another reason why we are asking children to attend the Zoom sessions that are already provided.

**When can I change my child's reading books?**

KS2: Monday 1:15pm—2:45pm (books for siblings can be collected at either session )

KS1and Reception: : Tuesday 1:15pm—2:45pm

In addition to the physical books, remember that you also have access to e-books on the Oxford Owl website:

Oxford Owl Login: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Click on 'My Class Login' on the top bar of the page

**Username: stmarysyate\_5/6 \***

**password: stmarys**

**Children must be reading for at least ten minutes a day. Please help support this by planning in some reading time in the day for your child(ren).**

**What happens if my child is not able to access the pre-recorded learning as it is too difficult?**

The pre-recorded lessons contain differentiated activities and questioning, pitched at all levels, just as it would be for children in the classroom. For those children who have an EHCP, and for those on SEN support plans with a specific need, some individual timetables and work may have been provided and individual conversations held around expectations. If you have any concerns around this, please contact your child's class teacher or email the school office with a message for Mrs Lane the school SENDCO.

**What happens if my child is in school on a couple of days?**

The work in the core subjects will be in the sequence of work that is planned by teachers, to enable children to make good progress. This means that children who are in school will be accessing the same work that children at home will be receiving. There should not be any disruption because children who have some days in school and some at home are following the same sequence of lessons. It is therefore important that all work is completed daily, to follow the sequence of lessons. Missing a lesson will have an impact for the following day.

**What else should we be completing?**

Class teachers will also be reminding your child to complete some of the basics, such as reading every day ,Spelling Frame ,learning key number facts via Times Table Rockstars or Numbots. Please encourage your children to do these key things for ten minutes each day; it will all be beneficial in the long term.

**Reviewing our provision:**