



St James' Church of England Primary School

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Executive Head Teacher: **Mrs Gina Bailey**

Head of School: **Mrs Casey Cox**

Opening doors to our future.

I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. Revelation 3:8

Friday 20th November 2020

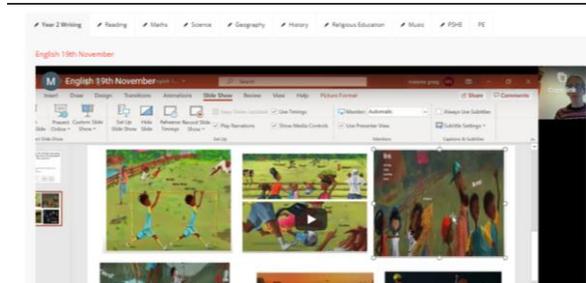
Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your support over the course of this week. The teachers have been really impressed by the brilliant home learning that is going on. It is lovely to see the children's work so do keep sharing this with us via the class email addresses.

Please excuse the length of this letter but I wanted to update you with how things are developing and what is in place to support you at home, as well as give you an overview of our intentions when we return to school.

Remote Learning

As you are all aware home learning is being sent out via email and through Purple Mash. We have now uploaded all of the videos, worksheets and activities made by the teachers onto the school website so you can revisit them at any time. You will find them in the subject tabs under the 'Virtual School' section on your child's class page. You do not need to print all of the worksheets, simply writing responses and answers on paper is absolutely fine too.



Paper learning packs have also been distributed to any families that required them. If you are unable to access the online learning, please call the office on 01279 432459 and we can arrange for you to collect a paper pack instead.

Food and Other Support for Families

Any pupils that are entitled to benefits-related free school meals were offered a weekly food parcel on Monday this week. These food parcels will be available for collection again next Monday 23rd November. If your child is in receipt of benefits-related free school meals and you would like to take up the offer of a food parcel, please ring the us by 10am on Monday morning so that we can prepare a parcel for you.

If your child does not currently receive free school meals but changes in circumstances mean that you are having difficulties affording food, please let us know as soon as possible. As a school, we are able to issue vouchers for the Harlow Foodbank and we have a small supply of prepacked boxes available.



Our Core Christian Values: Respect, Responsibility, Community, Friendship, Forgiveness, Courage.

Weekly phone calls will be carried out by class teachers and teaching assistants. These phone calls are an opportunity for staff to chat to the children and to check that families are all safe and well. If in between these phone calls you become worried or concerned about anything, please ring the office and a member of staff will call you back as soon as possible. We are still able to offer support to families and connect you with any support agencies if necessary.

Return to School and Christmas



We are all looking forward to school reopening on Monday 30th November! Arrangements for drop off/collection, PE, reading books etc will all remain the same as they were prior to closing.

As always, we are really looking forward to celebrating Christmas with the children in school. Though things may be a bit different this year, we are determined to still make it a special experience for all of our pupils. Here are all the things we have planned to ensure it is still an enjoyable time for the children.

Christmas Cards and Presents

If your child wishes to bring in cards and gifts, these should be brought into school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starting on Monday 30th November. Cards can only be brought in for your child's year group and each class or year group will have a post box. Cards will be sorted and given out on Fridays.

Random Acts of Kindness and Christmas Joke

Every day starting on Tuesday 1st December there will be a random act of kindness to carry out and a Christmas joke shared with your child. Hopefully they'll remember to share some of these with you. Acts of kindness calendars will be sent home for you to share with your family too.

Christmas Class Carols

Each class will be videoing a short performance of a song, reading or poem and a prayer. This will be uploaded on to the school website for you to view. If you do not wish your child to be in the video, please email the school office on admin.harlow@dcvst.org to opt out. Children will be asked to wear Christmas themed clothes on the day of filming- we will send out an email to let you know which day for each year group.

Christmas Pantomime, Christmas Jumper Day and Birthday Party- Friday 11th December

On Friday 11th December the children will all be watching a virtual pantomime (Aladdin) and having a celebration for all the children who have had birthdays during the Autumn term. If your child has had a birthday since the start of September and you would like to send in some sweets or individually wrapped food (e.g. mini rolls, single packets of crisps), can you please send it in by Wednesday 9th December so it can be shared out at the party on the Friday afternoon. Children can also wear Christmas themed clothes or jumpers on this day.

Virtual Christmas Church Service and Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 16th December

We will be offering a delicious Christmas dinner this year with turkey, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes and vegetables along with a cracker. This must be booked and paid for online by Thursday 10th December.

Christingle virtual service - Thursday 17th December

We will be holding a virtual Christingle service in school and worship ambassadors will demonstrate how to make a Christingle during this service- we will provide everything they need. This year we will be sending home all the items needed for your child to make a Christingle at home along with instructions, all you will need to provide them with is an orange.

We hope we will keep the magic of Christmas alive at St James'!

Mrs Casey Cox



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