

# St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are coping during this week with stormy conditions on top of everything else we are facing.

We spent the first two weeks of term setting up home learning, delivering laptops and paper packs to some families, sorting out who needed to be in school and setting up some guidelines for teachers' workload. This week we have monitored the provision of home learning and are giving feedback to teachers. We are delighted to report that 97% of children are accessing Seesaw, our remote learning platform. The quality of work from our children is very impressive and it is rewarding to see some of the interactions with their teachers.

There continues to be a lot of chat around what is termed 'live learning'. Some see this as a teacher teaching their class all day to a normal timetable with pupils logging on at 9.00 and off at 3.00 with breaks in the day as with school playtimes. Others see it as a live check in with a teacher through something like registration of a whole class. Some see it as the teachers on screen reading a story or giving instructions – this is seeing the teacher alive (!) but the session may be recorded. In other words, lots of interpretations on this topical issue.

This is our ethos around remote learning:

- We want to be **inclusive** for every child. We know that there are many children who do not have access to their own device as their family are sharing laptops/tablets etc.;
- We want remote learning to be **flexible and adaptable** for a range of needs. For example, if a child needs to go over an instruction or a concept they can do so at their own pace;
- We want **all of the learning**, within school and remotely, to be designed by a teacher or a specialist, with a range of subjects on offer, and something to engage every child.

We are constantly evaluating our provision and trying to enhance current provision. We are starting a live contact reading session with small groups in year 6 from next week. A separate letter has gone out about this. We will see how this goes and make further decisions based on discussions with Year 6 teachers.

A quick reminder that our e mail [covid19report@ssmi.org](mailto:covid19report@ssmi.org) is in use at the weekends to report a confirmed case of any child **WHO HAS BEEN IN SCHOOL** (not needed for those at home).

Thank you for your support, feedback and good wishes. Please keep going and keep safe, tough times.

Best wishes,  
Liz Burton