

# St Mary & St John CE Primary School



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Headteacher: Rebekah Stott

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Homework can sometimes be a contentious issue, for some families there is too little homework, for others, too much. At Mary and John, we want to support learning at home as best we can. Homework will be linked to the work that children are engaging with in school, with the aim of consolidating learning and, for some, adding an element of further challenge where teachers deem this appropriate.

Our trial with Seesaw ended during the summer term. In the meantime, we have been using an online platform called Purple Mash. It is a resource which I have used very successfully in 2 schools previously - and although I know it is another platform, the resources available are of great quality and it has been very popular with children as part of home learning and homework. Going forward, this platform will be used to set weekly homework for the children, and in the event of isolations or further school closures, will be how daily schoolwork is set. It will replace Seesaw as our learning platform and all data will be deleted from Seesaw in line with GDPR guidance.

Purple Mash has been successfully used in Primary Schools for years but became one of the 'go-to' platforms during the pandemic. A bank of resources specifically tailored to the National Curriculum, it provides content for teachers to set children which are relevant to current learning in school. Teachers are also able to upload work of their own. As a resource being used in school, our hope (and other schools' experience) is that children will be able to access it easily at home, should there come a point when home-learning will be required.

Below is an outline of the school's homework plans for the coming academic year:

- Every child will have a **Purple Mash** username and login.
- Weekly Maths, Reading and Spelling work will be set by Class Teachers. Children will be able to see their results immediately and teachers are able to track progress and adapt teaching if more support is required.
- Purple Mash will be monitored regularly by class teachers.
- Every term some classes will **bring home a short story to learn and retell**. This may be in the form of a story map. This is to build up confidence with speaking to an audience as well as

*Let all that you do be done in love...*

*1 Corinthians 16:14*

supporting language development for reading and writing. Other classes may be working on a novel so it may not be appropriate to learn and retell.

- **Daily reading** is highly recommended. This may be set on Purple Mash, but we also very much encourage real books!
- **Times Table Rockstars:** We are introducing a challenge element to encourage learning of times tables so that children become confident and fluent up to their x12 tables.
- **Year 6 will get additional homework** to prepare for their assessment tests which are in May every year. The class teachers will recommend practice books.
- Some children **who are receiving extra help in school for English and Maths may get specific tasks** to practise at home to support work done in school. This may also be set via Purple Mash.
- Some classes may get a **piece of writing** set as a holiday task or Topic work linked to learning in school may also be set.

School will not set project work, however, if your children have a genuine enthusiasm for a topic and want to do something independently, we will be delighted to share and celebrate it at school.

Talking to your children about school is vital. The 'What did you do at school today?' with the stock response 'nothing' can be frustrating but it is surprising what children come out with at unexpected moments!

We want our children to be motivated, confident, independent learners. We hope that reading fluently, spelling accurately, recalling times tables facts quickly, retelling stories with confidence and following up natural interests will contribute to this.

We hope you find this to be an approach to homework with the aim of clarity, consistency and manageability.

With many thanks for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex Stott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Miss Stott

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As a Church of England Primary School, we are committed to making St Mary & St John an inclusive environment, fostering curiosity, spirituality, creativity and respect. At our school we want everyone to be valued, to explore the joy of learning, and to achieve their full potential. This policy reflects our core values of aspiration and curiosity.

## **Remote Learning Provision**

We are committed to providing blended learning for all our pupils regardless of whether they are educated at school or at home. Blended learning is a two-way process of teaching. The first is using face to face interaction to educate (in school) whilst the second is through electronic platforms to educate online (remote learning).

As a school, we have adapted our curriculum so that any child who needs to learn from home due to a COVID related absence, can access the same learning that is happening for the whole class. Our adapted blocked plans can be found on each class page. It is very important that children accessing remote learning at home do the work that is sent by their teacher. We have carefully changed our curriculum to provide access to both in-school education and home provision and by not doing the work set, children will be at a disadvantage when returning to school as they will not be at the same point as their peers in the sequence of lessons.

### **Our remote learning plan**

Pupils will be set an English and maths task for each day as well as an afternoon task, linked to what they would have been doing in school. Children are expected to submit/email their work to their class teacher as requested. Feedback will be given by the year group where relevant.

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### **Our remote learning plan for individual pupils isolating at home**

The relevant class teacher will make work available to the pupil as soon as is practicable – we will aim for this to be before 11am. This will usually be made available using Purple Mash or the home learning section on our website. Pupils will be sent an English and Maths task for each day of absence as well as learning for other lessons taking place. Children are expected to submit their work to their class teacher via Purple Mash.

As teachers will be teaching children in school, this work will be monitored but may not receive daily feedback. Our first piece of advice to parents is that all children find elements of learning challenging at times so try not to worry if your child becomes stuck and you cannot explain it to them. If this happens then make a note of what they found hard and move onto another learning activity.

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