

St. Mark's Church of England Primary School



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Dear Parents

Managing home learning during lockdown

On behalf of all the teachers, thank you very much for the positive feedback we have received in relation to the online learning we are providing through Seesaw and Tapestry. We will continue to develop and improve our offer as much as we can in the coming weeks.

Now that we are two weeks in to this current version of school, **we would value your feedback**. Please email any comments to myself via the school office admin@st-marks.cumbria.sch.uk. Please let us know how you and your children are coping with the amount and type of activities being offered, the technical aspects (particularly with Seesaw) and share any good examples of ways you are working that we could pass on to other families.

We would like to pass on **a big thankyou to all of you** who are working so hard to support your children's learning at home.

Due to the length of this school closure, it is important that home learning is **manageable and sustainable** for you and your families.

Here are some tips that might help to prevent it becoming a daily battle !

- For your children:
 - **set a daily routine** that works for your family – don't necessarily try to make it school
 - try to make **a clear, quiet space** in the house for your child to focus on home learning activities
 - **set clear expectations** – make sure you and your children **know what 'finished' looks like** before you start any task
 - try to **get school work done early in the day**, and where possible get most of it done before lunch
 - **build in short break times** for you and your children (particularly if working a screen)
 - don't be afraid to tell your child if they are not trying hard enough, but aim to **praise your child three times as much as challenging them** when talking about the activities they are doing and the effort they are putting in
 - make sure the **children get outside for exercise** daily
 - **join in with the Zoom collective worship** at 3.00 p.m. each day (this could usefully mark the 'end of the school day')

- For you as parents
 - make sure you **get a break from your children each day** to do something for yourself
 - try to **talk to a friend** / adult not from your household daily
 - try to **focus on the things that have gone well**, not badly, and reward yourself

Please be aware that our teachers are also balancing the varying demands of their own lives through the lockdown. While some will choose to do so, there is no expectation for them to respond to submitted tasks and comments on Seesaw or Tapestry in the evenings or during weekends.

Yours sincerely

Peter Barfoot
Headteacher

