

## Update sent via Teacher2Parents 27.01.21

Dear Parents

I hope you are all well and continuing to find ways to manage home learning and your own work and family lives.

Please take note of the following:

### **Collective Worship**

It has been really good to welcome so many families to our collective worship sessions at 3.00 p.m. each school day. I will send the link for the week on a Monday. Please join us when you can for a calm and reflective 15 minutes !

### **Remote Education Offer**

*Please remember that not all activities have to be completed on screen. Children can write responses down and take a quick picture of their work using the laptop camera. This can overcome the problem of making and re-sizing text boxes in Seesaw.*

Thank you to everyone who responded to the request for feedback on the current remote education and home learning offer from school. It was really good to receive so many positive comments and good ideas for further improvement. I will send out a summary of the feedback in a few days.

The Government has asked all schools to publish the details of their remote education offer on their websites from this week. I have attached a copy for you.

Please note the following section of the document detailing the *expectations of children and parents*:

- **Children's engagement**

- We expect children to:
- log on daily and access the tasks and activities set for them
- respond to teachers' comments on the Seesaw platform
- be prepared to go over and improve on their work in the light of teacher comments
- not to give up on tasks too easily but to challenge themselves
- manage their distractions
- join in with the weekly class online social session via Zoom
- be honest and ask for help from the teacher when they need it

- **Parental support**

- *We expect parents to:*
- help provide a quiet, comfortable place in the home for learning
- help with technical problems a child may have
- to help develop a routine for home learning, with a clear start and end point to each 'school day' at home, including regular breaks
- provide support, depending on the child's age (but not do the work for them !)
- provide reasonable challenge in helping children to overcome difficulties
- take an interest in their child's learning
- inform school with any issues of concerns related to learning
- consider joining the daily collective worship session @ 3.00 p.m. via Zoom along with their child/ren
- not put too much pressure on themselves or their children
- monitoring their child's emotional and mental wellbeing, making sure that they talk regularly about how they are feeling
- encouraging time away from the computer and other screens for exercise and creative breaks (not every task or activity will require children to be on a screen)

Angela and Craig from St Mark's Church are keen to get the whole community involved in Lent activities this year.

They would like to put together a chart / calendar of activities and reflections, one for each of the 40 days of Lent. The vision is for as many of us as possible all doing the same small acts of kindness or thinking about the same things on the same day, for 40 days !

The attached example from a group of churches last year provides some great examples of the kinds of things they have in mind.

Any ideas from children or parents can be sent to school ([admin@st-marks.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marks.cumbria.sch.uk)) and we will pass them onto Angela and Craig. The deadline is **Wednesday 3rd February**. this will give them the chance to prepare our chart / calendar ready for Lent which begins on Wednesday 17th February (Ash Wednesday).

Yours sincerely

Peter Barfoot  
Headteacher