

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021



# Newsletter 6

*Learning God's Way*

Headteacher: Mr M Jee

01903 785416

[school@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk](mailto:school@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk)

[stmargaretsprimary.org.uk](http://stmargaretsprimary.org.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first week of Tier 5 lockdown, I have some important information for next week and beyond. We have been working hard to ensure that we provide the children with the best learning experience, both at home and at school and appreciate your support with this.

## Children of Critical Workers

We have children in school, across the age range, who are working in their year groups taught by teachers from that year group. The start and end of the day has remained the same to promote social distancing and we are trying to ensure the day is as normal as possible.

Please note that we intend to provide a hot meal for every child during these winter months. Further information regarding Chartwell's hot meal provision will be available soon.

## Children at Home

The majority of children remain at home and staff have been busy preparing remote learning for children to access. I recognise that for some families, where there is a lack of available technology and a number of children needing to access it, remote learning presents a considerable problem. We are actively looking at ways to support families in these circumstances.

The learning is very similar whether the children are working at home or at school. The learning is closely following the curriculum that has already been established for this term.

## Remote Learning (Years 1 – 6)

The timetable, giving details of learning, for your child/ren will be available via Google Classroom by 6.00pm on Sunday evening. The relevant resources will be uploaded to ensure they are there before they are required. This timetable will include 'live' teaching sessions in both the morning and the afternoon for children in Years 1 – 6. **This will follow the same learning as in school wherever possible.**

## Early Years


Early Years guidance/information has been posted on Tapestry. Please email the class address if you have any problems with accessing this.

## Access to Google Classroom


We understand that for many a challenge to home learning is the access to devices, especially for those that may be working and have just one laptop available.

One of the great aspects of Google Classroom and the Google email we have provided the children is that it is accessible on any device with a web browser. For example PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo Switch, iPhone, Android phone, iPad, Android tablet, computer, laptop or even your smart TV! Here are the instructions for Playstation and Xbox (see IMAGE and instructions

below), but if you need advice for other devices please email the school and Mrs Bransden can get back to you.



1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:  
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'  
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>
8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.



1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for Google Classroom
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.

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### 'Live' lesson times each day (Monday – Friday)

The live lessons will take place via Google Meet in the **year group** Google Classroom.

Years 1 and 2:           9.15am live lesson  
                              10.00am repeated live lesson  
                              2.30pm story\* and review session

(\*FOR YEAR 1 ONLY please log in to your child's Maple/Chestnut Google Classroom for your class story time.)

*To develop a life-long love of learning; to grow spiritually and reflect Jesus in our words and action; to foster self-respect and love for others; to provide opportunities for ALL to flourish; to serve our community; to prepare and equip for an ever-changing world.*



Years 3 and 4:            10.30am to 11.00am English or Maths session  
                                 3.00pm - 3.20pm story and review session

Years 5 and 6:            9.00 to 9.30 English or Maths session  
                                 2.00pm - 2.30pm story and review session

The live sessions will *also* be recorded so if there is a clash of lesson times in households, children will still be able to access the learning by visiting the year group Google Classroom. Please note - as we have one teacher for the year group in school and one teacher for the same year group at home managing the home learning, it may not be your child's class teacher who leads the live lesson.

Please contact your class teacher for further details of how to log on if you have any issues. We hope that every child will attend these sessions and we will be taking a register to see who is accessing them. The continuation of learning is our main focus for the children but we will also be making pastoral calls to families to monitor the children's wellbeing.

Where possible, teachers and support staff will give feedback to children when work is uploaded. Please bear in mind that staff, responsible for children working remotely, will be working with a very large number of children and I have asked staff not to answer queries and emails after the normal working hours. Ensuring staff wellbeing is another priority of mine!

#### Access to Digital Equipment

We recognise that some families will have limited access to technology. If you have children who need to share equipment and this limits access to learning, please email the office and let the school know about these circumstances. We will endeavour to assist with technical hardware to try and cater for every child's learning.

#### Children's Wellbeing

I would like to remind you that Mrs Alex Gates, our Child and Family Pastoral Worker, is here to support parents with children's wellbeing. Please contact Mrs Gates at [agates@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk](mailto:agates@stmargaretsprimary.org.uk) if you would like support and advice or have wellbeing concerns.


Mrs Gates is available to support children in school AND working from home. She will be regularly checking in with specific children on at least a weekly basis.

Please see the Wellbeing bulletin sent today from Mrs Gates and look out for future regular wellbeing updates which will include useful information on Internet Safety.

#### Resources

Some children may need additional stationery items to be able to complete their home learning. There will be a supply left in the school porch which can be collected as required. Access will be via the small silver gate by the entrance to the car park.

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### Parents' Forum

I would like the opportunity for parents to share their experiences and ideas and to discuss how we can further support with children's home learning.

There will be a meeting via Zoom on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January** at **1.15** and again in the evening at **7.30pm** for parents who work during the day.

A zoom link will be emailed for each meeting on the morning of **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**.

### BBC TV and website and Oak National Academy

Please do take the opportunity to look at both these websites which have a wealth of videos and lessons across all subjects for primary age children. We will be using some of these to support home learning but they may be of use for parents who wish to support specific areas of learning throughout the week.

### Data Allowance

Please see the web link below regarding the government initiative for ways to increase your data allowances for free on mobile devices:-

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

Many thanks for all you are doing and please be assured of our continued support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

*Mike Jee*

**Mike Jee**  
**Headteacher**