



Newsletter

27th March 2020

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I'm hoping this newsletter finds you all well, after what will have been a very strange and at times difficult week.

We have been able to open up school for the children of key workers, and are grateful to all those who have kept children at home when they have been able to, that's really helped us all stay safer. The staff have been amazing, and have been incredibly flexible in their response to the situation, and we're hoping that (if we all continue to stay well) we will be able to open for key workers during the Easter break, if we are needed. To help with our planning, we would really appreciate it if key workers could let us know if they will need us over that break (including the assigned bank holidays, as we might also be able to provide support for those days as well).

For those of you at home with your children, I can appreciate how challenging it might be if you're also trying to work at home as well as keep children suitably occupied within the restrictions we're all facing. We have sent home some work for your children to complete, and I'm also regularly updating the school website with other ideas/activities. Nothing we are setting will involve new learning, and there is absolutely no expectation from us that every single piece of work must be completed. We also don't expect you to 'home-school' for a full school day—that is not a reasonable expectation for any child as home-schooling is much more intense than school-schooling. So. Please be kind to yourselves and to your children! Try and see some of the opportunities presented by this situation, and complete activities with your children that you wouldn't normally have the chance to do—jigsaws, board games (chess?), cooking, learn new skills such as knitting, take the time to do something different and spend time enjoying each other.

We've loved hearing from you this week, thank you for sharing all your rainbows and other home based activities, and this week, I've even learnt how to 'zoom' with Canaries and Robins children, which was just lovely! Please do keep in touch with us, either through the class emails or the main school ones. I'm updating the school website most days with updates, and am also using Twitter to share news—it's really important that we try to stay connected at the moment.

As well as teachers setting activities for children to complete, I said I'd set special challenges for children. This week, I have two for you.

The first has come from one of our grandparents, to tie in with Easter, which is to try and balance an egg! Obviously, you'll need to take a bit of care as we don't want smashed eggs all over the kitchen, and as Grandad Peter says, it needs to be a particularly co-operative egg! Send us a photo of your efforts and successes!

The second 'Soulsby Special Task' is for children to make a card or write a letter to say thank you, and post it/email/tweet it to key workers in the NHS, police & other emergency services, supermarket workers, anyone who is working hard to keep the country going and keep us safe. Please email pictures of your cards/letters before you post them, but let's see if we can show some creativity and appreciation to bring smiles to the faces of people who are working so very hard.

Remember, you can stay in touch via class emails, head@stjamesvaschool.co.uk, or via Twitter @StJamesHead

Take good care of yourselves everyone!
Maria & all of the team at St James'



