



HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

After three weeks of online learning, I want to say a huge WELL DONE! I am delighted with the enthusiasm and engagement that our children are showing. I know how hard they are all trying and we want to acknowledge how proud of them we are. From the videos, the photos and the written work that is being turned in each day, the staff are very impressed. Do keep up the great work.

We also wanted to acknowledge how impressed we all are with you parents and the older siblings who are helping at home. We understand how difficult it can be with balancing your work commitments and daily life. We understand that at times, you cannot do everything and that there will be days when life can take over. The teachers all know that you are trying your best and whatever your personal circumstances, we think that you are all doing a great job.

It was lovely listening to your feedback in our drop in Zoom session last week. Thank you to the parents who joined us. We are missing seeing you at the school gates, and this was an opportunity for you to share your stories and it was great to catch up with you all. One parent acknowledged when we asked about the quantity of work being set by teachers, that the 'right amount' would largely depend on how many children were at home. Please do remember that our staff are online throughout the day to help you. We acknowledge that your flexibility and your time to assist your children is all different. We are here to help.

Staff are all enjoying the live sessions each day. It is lovely to interact with the children and for them to see one another. We have set them at specific times throughout the day to enable everyone to plan their day as much as possible.

Thank you to the parents in Years 5 and 6 who joined us for the maths workshop on Tuesday evening. Ms Watson shared a few approaches to helping your children with calculations and she has offered to help any of you who have a question or need assistance during this lockdown period.

Our teachers are planning and delivering their lessons and sharing these on the Google Classroom Platform. Although we have to set expectations in relation to the quantity of work that the children complete each week, we do understand that every family situation is different and there will be times when your circumstances mean that you just cannot get through the learning set, or you want to make the most of the weather and go for a walk in the park. We understand this and we want you to know that the main priority for you as a family is to stay happy and healthy. The learning from home is different from home schooling and your support should not be at the expense of your relationship and well-being.

Please encourage your children to register each morning at 9am by saying "Good morning" on the stream. The work is all scheduled to come online by 9am and it is important that your children begin working through the work and turning in each piece of work so that their teachers can see what they have understood. We do understand that not all pieces of work will be being turned in each day. Do what you can!

Reading every day is something your children can do. Remember, you can use 'real' books and you can also use Bug Club. If your children enjoy listening to stories, please make use of the stories that are being read and recorded by the staff at St Joseph's.

We are continuing to source further devices for our families while we wait for the support promised from the Department of Education. We have a number of ways that we are doing this:

- Encouraging people to donate to our fundraising page:
<https://www.rocketfund.org/st-josephs-laptop-and-ipad-support-for-pupils>
- Donating old laptops or tablets that can be refurbished and distributed to families:
https://www.facebook.com/Donate-laptops-for-Learning-Deptford-101743885216700/?view_public_for=101743885216700

If you are able to share these pages with people you know, please do. We want to be able to support as many families as we can.

This week, we have heard some very inspirational words from Amanda Gorman who opened her performance of her poem for the Inauguration of President Biden with:

'When day comes, we ask ourselves where can we find light in this never ending shade?'

The poem ends with:

'There is always light if we are brave enough to be it, if we are brave enough to be it'

[Amanda Gorman: Inauguration poet calls for 'unity and togetherness' - BBC News](#)

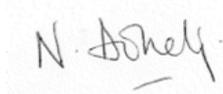
There is also some incredible footage on Kamala Harris where she talks about being 'here today because of the woman who came before me'. This is work that we plan to use with our pupils. It is so important to share positive role models with our pupils at this time.

We are continuing to keep you all in our thoughts and our prayers at this difficult time. If you need any support, please do contact us and we will do all we can to support you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe everyone.

Best Wishes



Miss Nicola Doherty (Headteacher)

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