

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

I very much hope you are all keeping well, healthy and safe. These are very strange and difficult times for everyone and I just want you all to know that we are here to help and support you and your family if you need us. You might need information or advice about home learning, you might be feeling worried, anxious and as though you are struggling to cope emotionally with all the challenges the current situation brings, you might need financial support – whatever it is you need we will do our very best to help – we are always only a phone call or an email away.

**Arrangements for remote learning:**

First of all, thank you for all your positive feedback and comments about the remote learning provision. We have never done this before so reading your emails and seeing photographs of your children's work is really encouraging – so thank you for taking the time to send them in.

Following the announcement about schools being closed to most children last Monday evening, we spent Tuesday sorting out our on-site provision and putting together the remote learning package for last week and ensuring we had email addresses and up to date phone numbers for all of you. I am pleased to say that we have now had direct contact either via email or phone with almost every single one of you!

We know for some children there were teething problems with logging onto Education City, Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Shed but we have now re-issued logins and passwords and know everyone can now access these resources. However, if you do come across any further problems please let your child's teacher know and we can reset passwords or re-issue logins again.

Based on the guidance that was issued on 4<sup>th</sup> January we also spent time last week planning the remote learning package for this week. For St. George's pupils this week we will provide opportunities for new learning in the following areas on a daily basis:

	<b>Nursery &amp; Reception</b>	<b>Years 1 and 2</b>	<b>Years 3 and 4</b>
<b>Activities set by your child's teacher</b>	Language Fine motor skills Phonics Number	Phonics English – including reading & writing opportunities Maths Topic	English – including reading & writing opportunities Maths Topic

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<b>On-going learning opportunities provided by school</b>	Numbots	Numbots Spelling shed Times Tables Rock Stars	Spelling shed Times Tables Rock Stars
<b>Other on-going learning opportunities</b>	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</a> <a href="https://www.thenational.academy/">https://www.thenational.academy/</a>		

The learning opportunities we are providing this week are very closely linked to the learning that would have been happening had all the children been in school. In this week's provision there will be some videos recorded by school staff and also videos from other sources (such as the Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize).

In order to provide opportunities for the children to write and record their thinking in maths, from Wednesday this week we will be delivering exercise books to all our Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 children. We will also be delivering craft packs to our Nursery and Reception children so they can practise their mark making, scissor and cutting skills during this lockdown. This also means that the children are not so reliant on being online in order to complete all their remote learning which should help with the use of tablets and laptops at home too especially if you have a number of children at different stages of their education trying to access a limited number of devices.

The DfE updated their guidance on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January, including the information about remote learning. We are therefore in the process of reviewing our remote learning provision in order to better meet the expectations set out in the new guidance. We are adding to our remote learning toolkit each day. For example, we have launched DuoLingo accounts for some pupils who are new to learning English today, so they can continue making progress in their learning of English vocabulary during this lockdown. We are also in the process of subscribing to a much wider bank of graded online books and reading materials.

We will be evaluating and adapting our remote learning provision each week so we can make sure it is as effective as it can be in helping your children learn as much as possible during this lockdown. Just like every school, remote learning is fairly new to us and we are very keen to improve and ensure a strong offer is in place for all our pupils as soon as possible and we thank you for your patience and understanding while we are getting everything set up. We also know that every child is different and every family is different, so we are keen to work closely with you to ensure we are delivering an appropriate level of provision for all children. We very much welcome your comments

and suggestions – you might be sat at home thinking my child(ren) could really do with..., and if you share that thought with us it might then benefit lots of other children too. Later this week we will send out a survey for you to complete so that we can take into account your points of view and adjust our remote learning provision accordingly. In the meantime, if you would like to let me know your thoughts please email [office@sgf.endeavourschools.org](mailto:office@sgf.endeavourschools.org)

### **Laptops and devices:**

A few you have been in touch to request a laptop or digital device so your children can access remote learning. To begin with we were allocated two laptops by the DfE and these have already been given out to families. We are in the process of getting a further 7 laptops configured so they can be used by pupils at home and these will be distributed from Wednesday this week. Today, we have been able to order another 9 laptops from the DfE and as soon as they are delivered we will get them set up and sent out to families. If you need a laptop in order for your child(ren) to access remote learning please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible so we can allocate and distribute them promptly.

### **Mobile data:**

To help with Home Learning, we have been given some SIM Cards that gives 30GB of free data. These SIM cards can be put into any smartphone or smart laptop. The data last for 90 days. If you would like us to send you one, please call the office on 01527 62263 and one will be delivered with the books/packs later this week. More details can be found here: [Free data for UK students | Coronavirus | Vodafone](#)

We can also help children do Home Learning by asking for your mobile data to be increased. In order for us to do this you will need to complete this online form: [Parent Form - Application for Mobile Data Increase - 12.01.21 \(office.com\)](#)

We will then apply for your mobile data to be increased. We can do this for both contract and pay-as-you-go mobile phones, but you will have to complete the form in full so that we can do this.

### **Keeping in touch with you and your child(ren):**

We recognise the challenges that the current situation brings and in addition to overcoming the challenges associated with remote learning we know there are other difficulties to overcome too. Each week, we aim to have a telephone conversation with the parent of every child who is at home. These phonecalls are not to 'check-up on you' but are to find out if there's anything else

we can do to help you and your family through these difficult times. We appreciate that it is not always easy to say in an email 'I need...' or 'Can I have...' so these phonecalls are just a way of touching base and making sure your children and you are OK. If your child(ren)'s teachers phone it may come up as an 'unknown number', the school number (01527 62263) or the number 01527 585915 may come up (this is the school's old fax number) so please do answer!

**Free School Meal vouchers:**

For the time being we are issuing vouchers to the value of £11.50 per week to all the children entitled to benefits related free school meals. This is going to increase to £15.00 per week in due course. If you think your child(ren) may be entitled to free school meals due to the

benefits you receive, please apply here:

[https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCCPublicForms/FormFreeSchoolMeals.aspx?\\_ga=2.226523293.1611217330.1610385594-355265581.1558789540](https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/WCCPublicForms/FormFreeSchoolMeals.aspx?_ga=2.226523293.1611217330.1610385594-355265581.1558789540)

**Applications for school places for September 2021**

If you have a child in Nursery or in Year 4 you will need to make sure you have applied for their school place by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January. You can do this online by following this link:

[Citizen Portal - Sign in \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

***Finally, I would just like to finish by saying we are very much missing seeing you and your children each day. The staff at St. George's are here for you every single step of the way. Together, I know that we can and we will get through this. Please take care of yourselves and keep safe.***

With our very best wishes to you all,

Marie Bradbury - Headteacher