

Monday 27th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones safe at what remains a difficult time for families and communities everywhere, not just with school closures but with possible changes to work and or income. We have been thinking of all our families constantly and miss being together as a school community. We know that this is a difficult and strange time for everyone and, as well as now having your children at home, we are all having to adapt to how we go about our daily lives.

Since the school closed, we have reached out to communicate with the children through our website and the teacher's weekly class newsletters, through our Twitter and Facebook Pages and most recently with our teachers phoning all the children in their class. It has been wonderful for the teacher's to talk to you and the children and hear what you have been up to. Thank you for your kind messages of support and asking how we, the staff are.

When I wrote to you on 26th March after the first week of closures, I updated you on the ways in which we would be connecting using All Saints Marsh's website, Twitter and Facebook pages and it has been lovely to have families connect with us in this way and we really hope that you've enjoyed getting involved. We have now set up class emails where children can send photos or home learning to support the communication with school and class teachers.

forde20a@lapsw.org bradley20a@lapsw.org courtenay20a@lapsw.org templar20a@lapsw.org

In my previous letter, which is available to view on our website <https://allsaintsmarsh-lap.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/26-3-20.pdf> we also gave some ideas of daily structure and support around home learning and what it could look like and we hope you are finding the home learning on the website practical and supportive, without piling unnecessary worry or pressure on families at a time where things are already tricky. The curriculum weeks are designed so that children of all ages can access with a minimum of resources needed. We have so far had Art, Science and Maths weeks with Well Being week coming up next week!

Our All Saints Marsh website continues to be the main source of information for home learning and we have updated it to make it easier to navigate to find the work that can support your child. You can now access a new class page under the **Learning** tab at the top of the web site. Scroll to the bottom of the **Learning** tab to click on the new **Home Learning Page** where you will see your child's class <https://allsaintsmarsh-lap.co.uk/learning/home-learning/>. On the class page will be the weekly newsletters that have been going out since the closures with all the home learning, links and resources to support different subjects, the weekly projects and any additional home learning set. We hope you find the Home Learning page helpful and look out for the new look newsletters that will be with you on Friday!



All Saints Marsh C of E Academy
Osborne Street, Newton Abbot
Devon, TQ12 2DJ
T: 01626 365293 E: allsaints@lapsw.org

TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

We continue to recommend reading and sharing stories with your children when time allows. Maths and other home learning ideas are always in your class newsletters and there are further ideas and links to support on your class pages on our website if you want further activities to keep busy! If you have limited internet access, and you aren't able to access any of the resources, please give school a ring to chat through what this might look like for you child. Also if you are struggling for resources i.e. paper or pencils, please let us know and we can support you.

Some parents have been asking about how much work their children need to be doing each day and have been requesting some advice on how to structure learning time. Every family and child is different and it is extremely important to remember that we do not expect parents to be 'teachers' during this tricky time and there is no expectation to complete all tasks or learning opportunities provided. Below are some suggestions of things you might like to include during a day or over a week.

- Some physical activity (Joe Wicks/yoga/short walk)
- Practice spellings (provided for each year group online)
- Time to enjoy a book
- Times Tables practice
- Maths or literacy activities (on website)
- Explore one of the wider curriculum activities in the weekly projects set.
- Time to rest
- Time to get creative with art, gardening, cooking etc

A few top tips for homeschooling:

- Do what works for you as a family.
- Take time to do fun things together (cooking, gardening, painting)
- If you feel your child needs more structure, a daily timetable or a now/next/then board may support them.
- Try short bursts of learning activities with lots of opportunities for play in between.
- Don't put too much pressure on yourselves.
- Read together as often as you can

We know it is different for every family and we continue to recognise that this needs to be a positive time for your children so the most important thing is to keep the time with your children fun, positive, motivated, calm and hopefully with lots of laughter!

Thank you to the teachers for constantly updating the home learning and monitoring the online learning platforms and emails. As well as working in school with the key worker children, developing the curriculum planning for when we return and writing reports, all our teaching staff are involved in online training to support their development. I want to say a personal thank you to all our staff for their hard work and professionalism over this time and their never ending passion to support our children.

Finally I wanted to take this opportunity to update and share with you that due to Covid-19 and the difficulty in delivering capital projects we have been informed by the Department for Education that the opening of our Trust's brand new school St Michael's, is one of a number of new school projects nationally which will be deferred until September 2021.



To ensure consistency and continuity for our children and families, after these unprecedented closures, we have decided that the right thing at this time will be for me to remain as Head of All Saints Marsh Academy in September. I am, as always, so very proud of All Saints Marsh and I feel very privileged and happy to be able to continue to support our children, families and staff through this unsettled time.

Please do get in touch if there is anything at all we can do to support you and I want to thank you for all that you are doing to support each other. We are all in this together and we will continue to work together and in partnership to ensure our children are at the heart of everything we do.

Take care of yourselves and keep in touch.

Mrs Edwards

Mrs Edwards
Head of All Saints Marsh C of E Academy