



Dear Parents and Families,

The summer term has begun - and it doesn't really feel like it. We often start a new term with a sense of excitement at the new learning on offer and the chance to renew our friendships and relationships with all the members of our school community - in short, looking forward to the challenges and shared experiences ahead.

At the start of this term, for some pupils and families who will continue to be at home, it's been hard to summon up the energy and enthusiasm for getting back to learning - and it might feel a bit confusing and unsettling not to be able to see our friends in lessons, outside in the playground, after school and on weekends.

Even the children and teachers who have been in school are finding it strange - school feels very different when it's not full of the sounds of talking, learning and playing.

We don't have an answer to the question, 'When can school be open again?' We really wish we did, but we know we have to wait until it's safe for us all to be together again.

The most helpful and practical thing we can do is to keep supporting all of you in whatever way we can, whether you're in a key worker family, coming in for sessions in school or staying at home. We will keep phoning, emailing and sending out messages and work on Parentmail - and responding to your questions, requests and comments as quickly as we can.

The office continues to be open for phone calls every day and slt@stmarys.rbksch.org is still monitored several times each day. Please do use these to get in touch with us. We want to hear from you.

Best wishes,

Mrs Playle and Mrs Lawlor

Message from Scott, our vicar

Blessing our Homes

We are currently spending more time than we usually do in our homes so I thought I would share with you some prayers that you might like to use to bless your home.

Gracious God, today we invite you afresh into our homes and lives. Bless all who live here and help us know your light, peace and love.

Let's move through our homes and pause to pray at different places....

AT THE FRONT DOOR

- *Lord, bless all who come and go through this door.*
- *Protect us when we leave and may we find your welcome on our return.*
- *We look forward to the time when we can welcome others into our home again.*

IN THE LIVING ROOM

- *Please bless all who share this room.*
- *May this be a place of harmony and laughter, relaxation and conversation.*
- *May this be a place where our relationships are strengthened and lives enriched.*

WHERE WE WORK (maybe a study, a garage, a shed or a garden)

- *Please bless the work that we do in this place.*
- *Please bless our creativity, our study and our play.*
- *May whatever we do bring blessing to others, fulfilment to ourselves and honour to you.*

CONCLUSION

Gracious God, may your peace rest upon our home.

***Keep watch over all who live here,
our going out and our coming home.***

***And the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us,
now and always. Amen.***

God Bless you. Scott

vicar@stmaryschessington.org

IMPORTANT: HOME LEARNING

We completely understand that our families and pupils are in many different home learning situations and that what works for one family may not be the right approach for another.

Some of you have been enjoying the class learning challenges, accessing our subscription sites like TT Rock Stars or Numbots, Mathletics and YUMU - and have been asking for more work as well as using the internet links we've been publicising (and some others too)

Some of you have told us that you're feeling overwhelmed by the amount of learning we're sending out and are worried that you're not getting through it or that you're finding it hard to know how to support your child/ren.

Many of you have told us that you are somewhere between these two points.

We know that some of you are sharing one computer or phone between several family members, including parents working from home and that some of you have run out of printer ink - and the prospect of another multi-coloured print run is just too much.

Whatever your situation or approach, please don't be concerned that you're not doing enough or doing too much. This way of learning and communicating is new for all of us and we all have to find the balance that works for us and our families.

At school this week....

Children at school this week had a 'bear' themed week, ending with a teddy bears' picnic on Friday afternoon. Perhaps you and your families could have one at home too....



Tips for home learning

Every class teacher has sent a Parentmail this week with new learning and information. Please let them know by email or a message to the office if you have any questions, either about the contents or any other aspect of learning at home.

The **BBC** has launched a major new daily education platform for pupils of all ages. There are programmes, resources and planning info for parents on their easy to navigate website. Start at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary> and choose the year group you want. If you have any trouble getting started, let your class teacher or Mrs Playle know and they'll be very happy to help.

Mrs Quinn found out about a group promoting nature-based activities and learning: **Wild Days**

<https://www.wild-days.org/> Every day they publish a set of structured activities and video content to guide you through around an hour of outdoor learning that you can do in your own green space (in line with government guidance!) It's free to join.



Class emails: don't forget to keep on emailing us with questions, work, pictures or just to say hello:

caterpillar@stmarys.rbksch.org

butterfly@stmarys.rbksch.org

squirrel@stmarys.rbksch.org

hedgehog@stmarys.rbksch.org

fox@stmarys.rbksch.org

otter@stmarys.rbksch.org

owl@stmarys.rbksch.org

falcon@stmarys.rbksch.org

We are still here to support you