

Email to Parents 20.4.20

Good morning

I hope that you all had a lovely Easter and some enjoyable family time.

Welcome back to what would have been the first day of the summer term. We are missing you all and as you know there is no date for a return to school, despite some media speculation over the weekend.

The teachers have been busy planning new learning for this term and should now have sent out the suggested learning activities for this week on Clasdojo. If you can't access dojo, the work for each class is also being added to our school website pages – there is a page for each class under this link <https://stbarnabasprimary.co.uk/curriculum/>.

From today, there are some new government backed online learning platforms available to support home learning. These are BBC Bitesize and Oak Academy. BBC Bitesize is also available on iPlayer and the red button. These are not yet referred to in the teacher's planning as detail of lessons wasn't available last week. Once teachers have had a look at the content, they may start to reference these in their weekly suggestions. See our updated [online learning document](#) for more details.

If you have any questions about the learning activities or your child's wellbeing, please contact the teacher via dojo or email school at stbarnabas@york.gov.uk.

Parents are telling us that you appreciate the work sent home and the communication between home and school.

The Department for Education have recently updated their [advice for parents about home learning](#) during school closure.

Please be aware that the learning sent out by teachers is a suggestion and you need to do what you feel is best for your child and family situation. Feel free to choose from any of the learning activities we have made available or choose your own.

We do feel it is important for home and school to stay in touch so we ask that at least once per week, children/parents post something (e.g. message, work, photo) on one of the online platforms available (Clasdojo, Purple Mash, Tapestry for Simmonds class) wherever possible. This helps us to see how the children are doing both in terms of learning and wellbeing.

Some parents have asked for guidance about the length of time to spend on each subject each day. We suggest 45mins – 1 hour each on English and Maths activities and 1-2 hours on the wider curriculum and wellbeing (e.g. physical activity, creative activities).

Children's (and parents') mental health and wellbeing is the highest priority so please do not worry about sticking to these timescales. We understand that many parents are also home working which makes home learning even more difficult. We really agree with the message below....

Dear Parents,

Don't stress about schoolwork. In September, I will get your children back on track. I am a teacher and that's my superpower. What I can't fix is social-emotional trauma that prevents the brain from learning. So right now, I just need you to share your calm, share your strength, and share your laughter with your children. No kids are ahead. No kids are behind. Your children are exactly where they need to be.

With love,
All the teachers on planet Earth

written by NYC public school teacher
Maria Karaiskos

Advice when children are unwell during coronavirus

We have been asked to share this advice with you.

Whilst coronavirus is infectious to children it is rarely serious. If your child is unwell it is likely to be a non-coronavirus illness, rather than coronavirus itself. Whilst it is extremely important to follow government advice to stay at home during this period, it can be confusing to know what to do when your child is unwell or injured.

Remember that NHS 111, GPs and hospitals are still providing the same safe care that they have always done. Here is some advice to help:

<https://www.enhertscg.nhs.uk/news/202004/advice-parents-during-coronavirus>

Support the PTA through your online orders

As you are doing your online shopping, you can raise funds for the PTA at the same time. Just click 'Support Us' on the [easyfundraising site](#) or app to shop online with more than 3,600 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, eBay and M&S. When you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you. The PTA are currently raising funds to support the purchase of some new IT equipment and also to subsidise school visits.

Contact with school

Please be aware that the school phone is not being checked regularly at the moment so please email school on stbarnabas@york.gov.uk if you need to get in touch.

With best wishes

Miss K Boardman

Headteacher

