



Through the light of God we grow

Manston St James Primary Academy

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Co-CEO: Ms Catherine Garrett

Co-CEO: Mrs Helen Pratten

Headteacher: Mrs A Dunn

Monday 6th April

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Learning at home

Here at Manston St James we have been working hard over the last two weeks to create an offer of learning opportunities for all of our pupils. We have established some really good routines in planning daily expectations and ensuring all children have the opportunity to access learning at the appropriate level of challenge. We have received some very positive feedback from parents which is reassuring, however it is becoming increasingly apparent that in some households this learning also presents a challenge.

We, in no way, expect you to be teachers. There is an increasing amount of pressure in the media for parents to be perfect; balancing parenting, running a household, emotionally supporting children and extended family members all while also supporting your children's education. Please do not put undue pressure on yourselves.

Easter break (6th -20th April)

We appreciate that whilst some families wish to have some 'time off' during the two week Easter break others will benefit from maintaining the routine they have established with home learning. This week, following some parental requests, we have continued to provide timetabled learning activities. Next week we will be providing a 'homework/topic based' activity menu for you to engage with at your discretion. Please do not feel that your child will miss out or fall behind if you do not complete all of the learning timetabled for this week as there will be an opportunity to revisit this in the work set by class teachers after the Easter break (in the week beginning 20th April).

From 20th April

From 20th April as well as resuming our daily timetabled learning package, we will also be providing you with an, optional, reduced list. We are calling this our 'minimum support package', and it is there to help you on those days where the routine just isn't working. We don't expect you to follow the minimum requirement every day, but as and when you feel it would be useful.

Our minimum support expectations are as follows;

- **Reading daily (from adult to child and from child to adult)**
- **Number formation and handwriting practise**
- **Key number skills practise and/or times table rock stars (shared centrally on the server for all to access or via app)**
- **Phonics/Spelling practise (following activity pack provided on website)**
- **We encourage as much engagement with the education packs as possible.**



A folder in the 'home learning' section of the school website is being created to include more information about the minimum support expectations and will be available by the end of this week.

I hope you find this communication reassuring. We trust that you will make the best decisions for you and your family and we will continue to do everything we can to support you in this endeavour. These are unprecedented times for everyone; we need to be kind to each other and also to ourselves. Please ensure that you are taking the time to create memories with your children in this time that your family will always remember.

All the very best,



Ashleigh Dunn
Headteacher



Jonathan O'Dwyer
Assistant Head



Corrina Blackmore
Assistant Head