



Email: Office@stjosephs.uk.net
Web: www.stjosephs.uk.net
Fax: 0191 428 4053

(Acting) Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell
Chair of Directors: Mrs G Kilgour

Dear Parent / Carer

Monday 4 May 2020

I am writing to update you about some changes to the way work will be set for your child. From today all home study work is set via Google Classroom, with the Home Study Portal no longer in use. To help you to adjust to the new approach, a Google Classroom tutorial and FAQ can be found by clicking this [TUTORIAL LINK](#). Please contact our support team at support@stjosephs.uk.net with any queries related to school email addresses or passwords.

The 'Home Study Help' email address is still active, but there is no requirement for completed work to be sent to this address. However, the home study help team will still be available to respond to queries about the tasks set via Google Classroom and other online learning platforms, so please continue to use homestudyhelp@stjosephs.uk.net as a helpdesk for home study queries.

Lots of the activities set on Google Classroom will not be required to be submitted to the teacher. Some tasks will enable the build-up of knowledge and skills, which will then be assessed in subsequent tasks which will need to be submitted. This is just like in school, where the teacher would not mark every piece of work from every child. Instead, key pieces of work are designed to assess the progress of the pupils - these are the ones that the teacher will ask to be submitted. Other tasks might be done on paper or stored digitally to refer back to later along the learning journey.

A wide range of high quality learning resources, from a number of providers, is being released in response to the challenge of remote teaching and learning. Curriculum leaders and teachers in each subject area are best placed to determine how to use this new online content in order to complement the home study work provided to our pupils. We do not have a 'one size fits all' policy, rather departments and teachers are empowered to select the most appropriate resources to meet the needs of our learners, including the use of resources from BBC Bitesize Daily and Oak National Academy where appropriate. Where resources from other providers are being recommended for home study, they will be signposted within the pupil tasks, and clear instructions regarding their access and use will be provided.

Home Study Advice for Parents:

- Please encourage your child to work for approximately 2.5 – 3 hours per day on work set by their subject teachers.
- Your child could continue to follow their 'usual timetable' to give them a balance of subjects each day. However, this is not compulsory as all families will be working in different ways.
- Other 'less formal' tasks such as our #stjosephs20 challenges, PE challenges and well-being activities can be used alongside the work from subject teachers to give a balance to home learning.
- Learning is remembering! One of the best ways that you can help your child to learn is to ask them what they have learned at the end of each day. They are more likely to get the "learning to stick" in their long-term memory by retrieving the information and saying it aloud.
- Don't worry if your child does not get through all of the work set for them; we just ask that they do the best that they can – this will be enough.

We are grateful for the work that you are doing in supporting your child with their home study. We know that all families are working in different ways and that we are all facing our own unique challenges at this time. We are here to support you and can be accessed in a number of ways. Please refer to the 'Useful Contacts' sheet on our website for further information, please click [USEFUL CONTACTS LINK](#).

Kind regards

D Ritchie

Mrs Ritchie

Deputy Headteacher (Teaching and Learning)

