



The Academy at
St James
Aspire, Achieve, Believe

The Academy at St James
Chelwood Drive
Bradford
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Telephone: 01274 777095
Headteacher: Mr Chris Tolson

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to you to give you an update on things. It feels incredibly strange that we are without our children but as a school, we are going to continue with what we do – giving our children the best opportunities to learn, helping to ensure our community is well supported and also try to help you all stay safe and well. In the news recently, there have been a lot of mixed messages about how long the corona virus crisis will last for. I want to make it really clear that it will not last for 3 weeks – it will be a lot longer unfortunately.

Home learning:

This has started really positively and we have had so much high-quality work completed and we can see those children continuing to make good progress. Our teachers are responding to work sent through classroom dojo and we will share work to do on the home learning page every day. Please do not get stressed out about whether you have completed every piece of work or not and remember some days you will do more than others and that is ok. We are all in new territory here and need to find a way to make it work.

Each day we recommend:

1. Creating a timetable for yourself so this helps with the day. The children live by a timetable and in our experience it works
2. Have some flexibility in the timetable. Some days it just won't happen and at the moment that is ok as we all get used to this new way of working. We are all dealing with lots of new pressures and things we have never done before
3. Remember to build in time for the family, doing jobs together, making food or playing in the garden. Board games and cards are also great as it teaches children to share.
4. Keep in touch- we know that that it can be tricky and you may have questions about the work so please ask. We know that it can be difficult.

Your class teacher will put work up online daily and you can access this from here, google classroom or class dojo. We recognise that KS2 pupils will mainly use google classroom and EYFS and Year 1 and 2 will be mainly using Class Dojo but for communication and letters we are using both.

We know some of you will have difficulty here due to internet connection or your data package. Please get in touch as we can deliver paper copies.

School lunches:

If you are entitled to a Free School Meal we are providing these on a daily basis. You will:

1. Receive a text message with 3 questions.
2. Complete the questions
3. Come and collect your lunch between **12.15-12.45**

We are also waiting to hear about school vouchers. As soon as I know anything I will let you know.

What if my child is unwell?

Just do what you would normally do. Contact Miss Mungovin and Mrs Carter on office@academystjames.com or let your child's class teacher know through Dojo or google classroom. The home learning tasks will be saved on our webpage at the end of each week so they can be used when you need to.

How we can still be a good support?

As well as our home learning, we have a range of ways that we will continue to support you and your child. This support includes the Easter holidays and, if needed, the holidays that follow.

As well as this:

- We have provided meals for our free school meals children (Mon-Fri) available from outside school. We have organised the collection area to ensure social distancing. It has been great to see families coming to school to collect these whilst doing their daily walk.
- We are hoping to provide food vouchers very soon and are just waiting for BDAT to decide.
- We will print off the daily task sheets and leave a selection on a table near the school lunches to help those who would like a paper copy.
- We are setting up a lending library outside school so you can take a book.
- We will keep on responding to what you send us on dojo. We are going nowhere and are happy to help.
- We are picking up messages via the school answering machine and please e-mail office@academystjames.com if you have any problems
- All members of staff are phoning children every week to check in and say hello. Every family will get a phone call and we just want to say hello and let you know we are here. It might come from an unknown number so please pick up if you can.

Our school remains open to a very small group of children. The government guidance on this is very clear and this provision is only available to children of key workers and vulnerable children. This is to reduce the risk of the virus spreading within our community and also to limit the risk to me, our colleagues and our families. Thank you for respecting this

Each day will be different. Equally please don't hesitate to call us if you need anything.

Kind regards

Chris Tolson
Headteacher

#staysafe #stayhomesavelives

