



The Academy at  
**St James**  
Aspire, Achieve, Believe

The Academy at St James  
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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**