



The Academy at
St James
Aspire, Achieve, Believe

The Academy at St James
Chelwood Drive
Bradford
BD15 7YD
Telephone: 01274 777095
office@academystjames.com
www.academystjames.com
Headteacher: Mr Chris Tolson

Tuesday 2nd February

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I want to write to you as a parent, who has 2 children, one of which has been remote learning for 4 weeks. We've now had 4 weeks of remote learning and I know personally how challenging it has been trying to support your child home learning whilst juggling your jobs and generally surviving the pandemic.

However, I wanted to take the time to say **THANK YOU** to each and every one of you. Thank you for keeping your child at home where possible and trying to keep families and our local community safe. Thank you for your unwavering support, kind and generous messages and amazing work that have made us all smile even on the most challenging of days. Thank you for supporting your children with their learning- we understand you are not trained teachers but are working as hard as you can, with our help, to give your children the best education possible. We really appreciate all your time, effort and energy.

I would also like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the staff who are working daily miracles to support you and your family. They are incredible and I am very proud of each and everyone of them. I will be sending out a 'Thank you shout out' bubble for you to complete if you want to thank a particular person or group of people and I will be making a display of these in school.

We are providing the correct amount of home learning for all our children and have made a huge effort to offer live sessions so your children get the support that they need. Accessing learning is really important and this is why we are getting in touch if you are not accessing any work. Please remember that you will have days or parts of the day where learning maybe more difficult- all our well-being is important so remember to take breaks when you can.

Unfortunately, the latest government announcement is that schools will not fully re open (as we have never actually closed) **until March 8th at the earliest**. We therefore have at least another 4 weeks of home learning so please keep going, ask for help if you need it and together we can make it work for everyone. Now is the time we will get tired so please keep in touch and ask for help if you need it.

Home learning updates:

I just wanted to update you on a few things:

1. Any work posted **after 3.30pm** will be marked but not until the next day. We recognise that you have different work patterns but we also need to support the staff in having time to switch off



2. Please avoid sending messages on the weekend. Staff are working incredibly hard to make things work in the class and at home. It is also a time for you to switch off too as we think it is important that we all get a break. If you have a Covid-19 emergency please contact me directly.

3. Please remember we have books available at the front office for you to read with your child. Our work packs are still organised as follows.

Hand out	Hand in
Monday	Thursday
Thursday	Monday
Some year groups are selecting to send a week out at a time.	

Please remember to collect these and make sure you **hand in completed packs for marking.**

On a Friday we are running a **food pantry** for anyone who needs support over the weekend. Remember we have a great pastoral team who can offer support, time for a chat or advice and can signpost you to other agencies who might be able to help you. Just ring us at school and we will do our very best to help.

Our mobile library will start this Friday and Mrs A Gibbons and Mrs H Gibbons will be out and about supporting you and will have books you can borrow.

If you are needing support with accessing home learning digitally, please contact us and we do have some **devices and MIFI dongles** spare you can use.

It is half term from **Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February** and all schools have been advised to close during this period in order to give the staff a well-deserved rest. I also feel the children need a rest from work too-you have all worked incredibly hard. Therefore there will no work set during the half term and **no onsite provision** for vulnerable or critical worker children.

As always thank you for your continued support. Remember to take care, stay safe and we all think you are amazing! Your home learning has been incredible!

Kind regards

Chris Tolson

