



# Newsletter

Monday 30th March 2020

*God's Word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path.  
Inspired by Psalm 119:105*

Good Morning Everyone,

The last few weeks as a headteacher have been very busy, unprecedented and like no other I've experienced as a teacher. I'm sure the same can be said for you too. I hope this newsletter finds you, your families and loved ones all well and safe. I wish I could bring you news of when we may be returning to school but like you I only know what we are told by the Government on a daily basis and after yesterdays news I fear that for the foreseeable future we will be at home.

Two weeks ago the staff and children took part in our values day – exploring our values and why they are important to us and what God's word says about them. The next week is when the Virus started to take hold and children began to stay at home and schools shut. I've been left thinking was it a coincidence that we focused back into our values or was it part of a larger plan that was preparing us in having to show these values more than ever?

I'm sure you are all experiencing our core values in many different ways. This week I was overwhelmed by the love that people showed on their doorsteps for those working in the NHS. My entire street came out in force to clap and bang saucepans – we even had some fireworks! I believe the plan is to do it again on Thursday at 8pm and I for one will most certainly be there. It's amazing to see how people have rallied together to show love and compassion for each other – something we talk about so much with the children. I just hope we can bottle it and continue this togetherness once all this is over.

## **Home learning:**

I hope that the home learning is going well for you all. The packs we sent out with the children were designed to last you for the 2 weeks – possibly longer. New home learning packs plus a brief timetable for each week will be sent out after the Easter holidays. You can then choose how you tackle the home learning with your children in whichever way suits you best.

All the home learning packs are now on the website (under pupils and Year groups) with other fun things that you can do with the children. Please feel free to let us know of any great things you've discovered and we'll add these to the website.

I've added a picture news section to the website which have a weekly assembly as part of them – again find these under the pupils tab.

Please show us your child's home learning through Twitter – we'd love to see it. Link us into your posts – @StMargaretsAca1

## YouTube:

I know many of you have already commented that children are missing seeing us. The social side of this isolation period is going to be tough for us all. Over the last week I've been exploring YouTube and St Margaret's now has it's own channel! Search for St Margaret's C of E Academy on YouTube or follow the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXIokWJHvo6iinmvUlle1HA>

This is out of all the teachers comfort zones but we miss the children as much as they miss us so we will try to upload different things as much as we can. Please feel free to leave comments but we ask you would be kind!

## Class Dojo:

As you will know we use class dojo in school regularly. We are looking into opening this up for parents as a means of communicating with their class teacher as well as potentially posting things for the class to see. There is also a portfolio section where we can set work. This week we will be trialling this with some parents and more news will follow when we are ready to open this out to everyone.

In the meantime if you need to ask a question or speak to anyone from school please use either:

[admin@st-margaretsacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@st-margaretsacademy.co.uk)

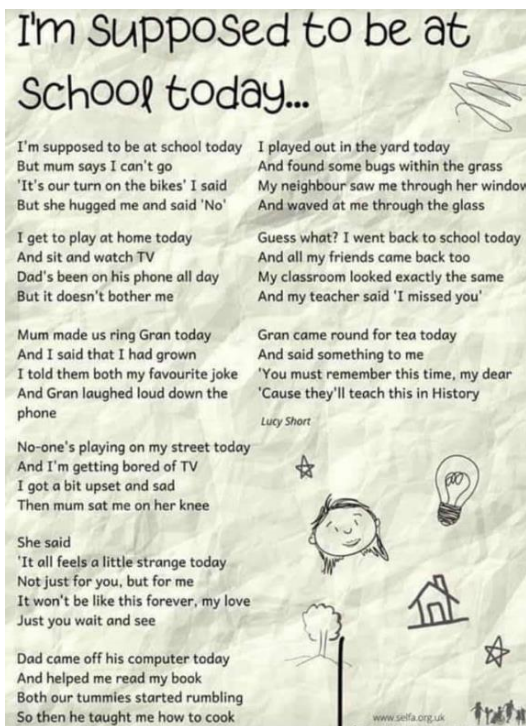
We would love to see some of the children's work so please get in touch

## Critical Workers:

Please could I ask anyone who meets the criteria for school supervision to please book in hours for next week by Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April via school money as per the email that was sent out last week. Thank you – this will help us with staffing for the next week.

Take care this week. Stay strong, stay safe, stay well

Mrs Smith  
Head Teacher



## Question time with Mrs Smith

As part of our Youtube channel we'll do a weekly ask the teacher a question. This week it is me!

If you have a question you would like to ask Mrs Smith then send it into [admin@st-margaretsacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@st-margaretsacademy.co.uk) by **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

If you send in a question please also let me know if you are happy for your child's name to be used as I don't currently have your permission to use Youtube

I'll post the video on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April!

## Mental Health

The next few weeks and months will undoubtedly take their toll on us all physically but it is so important we all think about our Mental Health too. This is also true for our children as well as ourselves. Below are some links and tips to keep our minds healthy.

### **Government Guidance on mental Health during the Covid-19 outbreak:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

### **NHS Guidance**

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

### **Charities offering advice**

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>



## Useful Numbers

Below are some useful numbers that may be of help to you. Remember to always get in contact with anything that is troubling you or we may be able to help with – [admin@st-margaretsacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@st-margaretsacademy.co.uk)

### **Child line**

Freephone: 0800 1111

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/>

There is also a devoted Covid-19 site

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

### **Foodbank**

01722 580 180

[enquiries@trusselltrust.org](mailto:enquiries@trusselltrust.org)

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

### **HomeStart**

<https://www.home-start.org.uk/Listing/Category/support-for-families-during-covid-19>

This site includes activities, help with routines at this time and a wide range of telephone support lines.

## Want to explain Covid-19 to children but not sure how to?

You may have already done this or may feel that it's not appropriate for your child but I was sent this link by a friend so thought I would share. On this site you can create a personalised book to share with your child and download for free as a PDF. It explains Covid-19 simply and is suitable for under 7s. Children love to see their name in print and it's Free!

<https://www.giftsonline4u.com/topics/ebook/ebook-an-easy-way-to-explain-the-coronavirus-to-children/?fbclid=IwAR1zjEnjGlnfsGQOFce4gUOUfEi-V-ODsncUJpBX4yzphAQUGQ9pHEzbDjc>

**STAYS SAFE**  
**AND STAY**  
**POSITIVE**