

At St George's we are proud to be one family of lifelong learners who know that they are special to God. Our family is built upon a strong sense of belonging and mutual respect. Our community gives our children the freedom to flourish and succeed.

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Newsletter – Friday, 17th April 2020

A flourishing fellowship; learning today with God by our side

WEEKLY NEWS

We hope that you had a lovely Easter holiday and managed to spend some quality family time together, thinking about the importance of this Christian celebration. A big thank you to all the people who have forgone their Easter Holiday to ensure that their vital work can continue to support the effort to combat the CoVID 19 Virus, including all our staff at the Parish Hub. Lockdown has brought out the best in many of us. Between coming up with fun activities and getting along with each other, lots of us have risen to the challenge of being at home a lot more! Whether you have joined in with the clap for our carers at 8 pm on Thursdays, made rainbows and placed bears in your windows to be spotted during daily walks, we are finding solace and solidarity in each other.

ESafety: The new technology skills we are acquiring are invaluable at this time, especially where we can stay connected to our friends and families. However, we must be extra vigilant with online safety, ensuring that we protect our children whilst they use their devices and newly acquired Apps more frequently. Sadly, there have been several reports of cybercrime on popular Apps such as Houseparty and Zoom. Therefore, it is especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their children are being asked to do online, sites they are accessing and to be clear who their child is interacting with. You may choose to supplement our school's online offer with support from online companies and individual tutors. We must emphasise the importance of using a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Support for parents and carers to keep children safe online can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online> It includes useful links to advisory sites who will, amongst other things, support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices.

Home-schooling: As we are about to embark on our next stint of home-schooling you may be worried that your practise run before Easter was not as perfect as you would like or maybe it was a roaring success but will be unsustainable long term. Either way, please be assured that there isn't a right way to home-school and you may find that you have to adapt your home-schooling to meet the needs of your situation, at that particular time. There are many ways to home school, find your style on <https://www.homeschool.com/homeschooling-methods/> The main advice is to not try to cover everything that schools normally do and allow plenty of time for exercise, rest and play. Helpful guidance that can support learning can be found on <http://www.education.ox.ac.uk/recommended-resources-for-teachers-and-parents-home-schooling-during-covid-19/> The teachers have also been busy planning the next two weeks suggested activities and timetables based on the pre-planned Summer learning. Please follow them according to your own circumstances and remember whatever you can do is a bonus. A huge well done to all the children (and parents) for their amazing learning and creativity so far whether it is project work, gardening, baking or simply making family memories and spending precious time together. We have enjoyed hearing all about your activities and ventures. Please do not worry if you have not had a chance or have been unable to email us as we know lots of amazing things have been going on behind the scenes.

We would like to acknowledge and celebrate the following children: Ivy for her beautiful drawings, descriptive writing and for making the most delicious looking cakes! The year 1 collective; Jorge for his family coat of arms; Luiza for her rainbow path; James S for his nature art, drawings and information text; James B for writing a fantastic story about dinosaurs based on Jurassic Park and a letter to the future generation about his experiences of lockdown; Riley for his beautifully presented information book on his family and for building a Tudor warship out of wood! Clara for throwing herself into her project on Russia producing a truly beautiful cover poster on which she even tried her hand at writing in Cyrillic! Olivia for drawing fractions on her garden wall in chalk, her research on underwater animals and her hard work on the police; Kai for liaising Mrs Lynch, to improve his balanced argument; Freya for producing a fantastic PowerPoint using mind mapping in the research stage demonstrating just how much effort had gone into producing it; James for his fantastic picture of a nurse cradling the UK and Dominique and Mateo for their sewing. We are so proud of all our St George's children and will be acknowledging and celebrating their home learning in our bi-weekly newsletter. So please continue sending all your achievements through to your class email boxes. The teachers are enjoying hearing from you and receiving your kind messages too. Keep safe, healthy and well.