



SAINT PETER AT GOWTS

SAINTPETERS@HOME

8TH JANUARY 2021

“Unlocking the potential in all, empowering a community of Hope”

NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

What an unprecedented week it has been; challenging, uncertain and difficult times for all. Please can I offer my huge thanks and admiration for all the children and families at home who have managed to navigate home learning this week! If you could believe it, the change to Google Classrooms was designed to help support parents at home by providing live teaching! I know we have had many technical issues, but we are now at about 95% of children able to participate in the live lessons, access the resources and submit work. This is a fantastic feat and we hope to be up to 100% next week. The feedback from the live sessions is that the children are loving seeing their teacher and the engagement and enjoyment is high. The idea of our ‘blended curriculum’ is that the pupils at home and at school receive exactly the same quality lessons and resources, so that when we are back together the children will be at the same point. No winners or losers, everyone having the same support regardless of circumstances. Let’s hope over the next few weeks we can achieve this goal. Our teachers are there to support you. Don’t believe what you hear in the press. The teachers at St. Peter’s don’t want more holidays; we all want the very best for our children and we will strive to make sure you are not left without the resources in order to home school effectively.

Please do enjoy your weekend and bear with us as we develop our home learning even more. If we can be of any help do not hesitate to get in touch.

Charlotte Hickerton

FACEBOOK VS GOOGLE CLASSROOMS

If you want to get in touch with the teachers about learning, then please use Google Classroom. If you want to share any ideas, any positivity and general comments for the whole school community then please use Facebook. It is incredibly important that we remain connected well as a ‘whole school’ until we can be back together again!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOOD DELIVERY

We have lots of children who are entitled to a free school meal who are at home and therefore have not received one this week. Apologies for this, we are trying to rectify the disparity. The government has announced that there will be a national voucher scheme, so it is likely that we will be able to provide you with vouchers for Tesco, Morrisons and Aldi. The details of the vouchers have not been announced yet, however our free school meal provider is providing each of the eligible FSM families with an individual portion of the meals they would have received at school. This will be available at 11.30am on Monday. The

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meals will be chilled and ready to be heated in a microwave or oven. Please do come to school and pick up your child's meals from 11.30am - 12.15pm on Monday (you will already have received a ParentMail notifying you if you are to collect meals). We guarantee you will be really impressed with the quality of the food you will receive.

HOME SCHOOLING

We know that the safest place to be for your child to be is at home right now. Some of you may enjoy home schooling, some may find it a challenge. No matter what your thoughts on it, we hope you will be kind to yourself and be flexible when you need to. The live teaching sessions are the most important part of the days, so please make sure your child attends these. All other work can be flexible, just turn it in at a time that is suitable to you. Many families find it really helpful to have a clear timetable and keep children in a routine. Some of you may prefer to be more creative! The government have said they would like children to be completing 3 - 4 hours of learning per day, however we know that learning can be done through cooking, craft, play, nature walks and so much more. Enjoy this precious time with your child, their emotional and physical health is of vital importance. Never forget that you are your child's greatest teacher and their greatest influence - children are often a mirror to your own emotions and attitude to life. If you need any help and advice, please do talk to your child's class teacher and they can help, advise and support you, as we as adults face one of the most challenging times of our lives.

WOW DAYS ON MONDAY

We were so delighted that the children got to launch their topics on Monday. The children were able to enjoy a variety of exciting experiences. In Years 1 and 2, the children conducted a traffic survey. It will be interesting to compare their data with the amount of traffic during lockdown! In Years 3 and 4 the children started exploring their new topic about Rainforests. The children were able to handle a variety of rainforest animals including spiders, snakes, chinchillas and much more. They then enjoyed a dance session with a professional dancer from Dance NK, exploring the sights and sounds of the rainforest. There were some wonderful costumes that the children wore too! In Years 5 and 6, the children also enjoyed a dance session, exploring the water cycle, linked to their topic about Rivers and Coasts. It was wonderful to see the children using the scientific terms whilst representing them through the medium of dance! The children also made some beautiful artwork linked to water and waves.



