



ST MARY'S
Catholic Primary School

Melbourn Road, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 7DB Tel: (01763) 246021

16th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have prepared this letter in case of the unfortunate event of a 'bubble closure' meaning Reception would need to learn from home for 2 weeks. This letter will outline what we normally do at school and what you should expect from home learning.

Our 'normal' school day consists of the children coming in and having a story on the board (Vooks), whilst other children are coming in or washing their hands. Then the children complete a Busy Finger activity for 10/15 minutes which focuses on developing key skills such as writing, scissor control, counting, reading or gross motor skills. Then, we do the register and this is often a time where the children like to tell me things that they have done the night before or random facts, we often get a call from the school office chasing our lunch options as we are having a conversation all about the moon! To me this is a very important part of the day as the children love talking so it is great to promote their confidence with the class and also to build up listening skills. Next, we do a 5-a-day dance to get their energy out before we have a 20-minute phonics lesson, the children are always moving in their lesson or doing different things to keep them engaged. Afterwards we have a brain break which consists of musical statues and more talking time as a class. Then, we move onto Maths which once again is only a 20-minute lesson. Next, we have Rainbow challenge this is just before D&D (Discover and Do, child-initiated play), the children in their groups will do a different activity each day and it encourages them to all explore different areas of the classroom. The activities vary depending on week but can be - build a castle, complete the obstacle course, prepare snack for the class, draw a picture of your family and make perfume in the outdoor kitchen. Therefore, it encourages all children to play in a different part of the classroom environment and they may choose to then play there again in D&D rather than staying at the same activity. D&D then lasts for 45 minutes and the children can play where they want and do what they want, it is a time for them

to explore. Then, we begin to get ready for lunch (toileting and washing hands) and the children will have a story and singing which they love as they unwind for lunch time. After lunch, we have 'dough disco' which helps the children's fine motor skills and it also refocuses them for the afternoon. Then after dough disco, on a Monday we do R.E, Tuesday we do P.E, Wednesday we do Outdoor Learning and Thursday is Literacy. After these activities it is then time for a story and home time.

For home learning, I will provide weekly Busy Finger activities (I will post these on a Monday) and daily phonics or maths (alternating each day) and another lesson which will change each day, R.E, P.E, Outdoor Learning, Literacy, Friday Food or a rainbow challenge. In addition, I will also post stories or singing videos. All lessons will be shared onto Tapestry by 8:30am and I will reply to the work your child has completed. In addition to the work I set, it would be really beneficial if you could continue to read with your child and practise their handwriting.

In the unfortunate event of a bubble closure, I would strongly suggest setting up a routine with your children at home, so they don't lose their structure to their day which they are used to at school. Having said that all our lessons are broken up with a snack and story break or D&D or lunch, so I wouldn't recommend the children doing set activities back to back.

Thank you for all your support and if you have any questions please feel free to ask or message on Tapestry.

Miss Wright
Reception Teacher