



**ST MARY'S**  
**Catholic Primary School**

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

18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We'd like to start by saying how wonderful all the children have been in adapting to our new way of life at school, especially in our current lockdown situation and thank you for your support.

We wanted to write to you to explain how our bubble would operate if it was to close. We will be using Seesaw as our main learning platform where we will put daily English, Maths and a piece of topic work. We understand that this is a very difficult time for everyone, but these activities will provide structure for your child's days and help them continue with their education. Feedback will be given each day, either through a voice comment, emoji or a written message. If you feel that your child needs any extra reinforcement, our school website has a range of links in a variety of subjects. These can be found under the curriculum section in the enrichment activities tab -

<https://www.stmarysroyston.co.uk/curriculum/enrichment-activities>.

We thought it might help if we provided you with an outline of a typical school day. Our intention for sharing this is not to replicate this at home but to share the importance of routines, regular breaks and a variety of tasks throughout the day.

- As the children arrive at school they have a morning challenge to complete during registration time. These are simple, straight forward 15/20 minute activities that the children can complete independently. We will upload a variety of these on to Seesaw that your child can choose from each day if they wish.
- We then begin our day with the morning prayer, followed by watching a pre-recorded assembly or a Mark 10 Mission video. This could be replaced at home with BBC Newsround - [https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/news/watch\\_newsround](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/news/watch_newsround).
- Our English lessons can range in timings, anything from 40 minutes to an hour. Throughout the week we complete comprehension reading tasks, grammar activities, spelling tests and writing sessions. The children will usually have time after each session to self-edit their work, looking at how they can improve it.
- Morning breaktime lasts for 15 minutes. The children are encouraged to eat a healthy snack, have a drink and move around outside in the fresh air.
- We then have 2 lessons between break and lunch. Maths will last for around an hour. We might start with a quick introduction, recapping the previous days learning. When we teach maths, we

try and show the children a range of different ways to work something out and will tell them that we don't mind which method they use, as long as they understand it and are getting the correct answers. Maths lessons can include practical work, active tasks outside, group work or games on the interactive whiteboard. Again, we encourage the children to self-mark their work, which gives them instant feedback.

- Depending on how the morning is going we might slot a movement break in here. This could be a 5-a-day dance in the classroom or the daily mile. We find that regular movement breaks really help with the children's concentration once back in class.
- Our RE lessons are usually around 40 minutes. Within this time we might read from the bible, share a passage from our class workbook, discuss the topic together as a group, act out/retell a story from the bible or write prayers. We try and make this a calming prayerful time to allow the children time to reflect.
- Lunchtime runs from 12.45pm to 1.30pm, starting with a prayer. During this time the children eat their lunch and play with their friends. As we are currently eating in the classroom, we are using this time to put a short story on the board. The CBBC Jackanory Junior or Storyline Online have some nice stories - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007t9wg> , <https://www.storylineonline.net>
- Our afternoon sessions will usually be when we complete our topic lessons like History, Geography, Science, French, Art&DT and PE. For these lessons we use a range of teaching methods, changing from week to week. Again, if we find that the children are becoming restless, we will take our lesson outside or have another movement break.
- Our ICT and Music lessons take place on a Friday morning. We are currently using Scratch 2 to programme. This can be used online at home - <https://scratch.mit.edu/>. Our music lessons are still taught by Mrs Ward, our external music teacher. These lessons are recorded and sent to us so will be uploaded to Seesaw for you if needed.
- We always finish our day with the afternoon prayer.

I hope this information is useful and we will keep you updated of any changes. If you ever have any problems logging into Seesaw, please email Miss Jewson at [homelearning@st-marys-royston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:homelearning@st-marys-royston.herts.sch.uk).

Thank you again for your continued support during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Miss Jewson

Ms Wallace