

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.

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. 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).

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. However, we do not expect you to replicate a normal school day but just wanted you to be aware of the importance of routines and breaks from work.

- 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. Cooking is a fun way of incorporating lots of maths skills in measuring in ml and g and reading scales etc. At the end of the lesson 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 is usually 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 prayer 12.45pm
- Lunchtime runs from 12.45pm to 1.30pm, giving the children time to eat their lunch and play with their friends.
- Our afternoon sessions will usually be when we complete our topic lessons like History, Geography, Science, French and Art/DT. 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.
- Group reading is usually on a Tuesday afternoon.
- ICT and Music are usually on a Friday morning.
- End of day prayer 3.05pm

We will keep you updated of any changes. Thank you again for your continued support and patience during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Dunbar

Ms Wallace