

**Message from Mr Watson**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone is well. As we come to the end of the week, all of the work children are producing, both in and out of school, has again been brilliant. I would like to thank you all for the support you are giving your children with their learning during lockdown. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to see some of the amazing work that is being produced by our children.

I am deeply grateful for your on going support and resilience. Some days will be easier than others when you are supporting your child(ren) at home. Please do not feel pressured in trying to complete all of the activities that are set every day.

We are continuously reviewing everything we are doing so we can improve the learning experience for you and your child(ren). I had a catch up with the Parents Council today, to review with them our remote learning offer. Please feedback back to your Reps any positives or other feedback you may have.

If you have watched this weeks 'Star of the Week' you will have seen me setting fire to a certificate!!! You will be pleased to know I am safe and I hope it does not happen again!!!! Please send me any 'shout outs' for your child(ren) to include at the start of 'Star of the Week'. If they have been working hard or doing anything extra to help out at home, please let me know. E-mail [gary.watson@stjohns.covmat.org](mailto:gary.watson@stjohns.covmat.org)

If you need anything, we are always here. Please ring the school or send me an e-mail.

Stay safe

**Mr Watson**

Headteacher



*I can grow even if things are hard.*

James 1:2-4

*Consider it sheer gift friends when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith life is forced into the open and shows its true colours. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well developed, not deficient in any way.*

Showing Character means:

- Overcoming things which are challenging or disappointing
- Choosing how you respond to situations
- Persevering



together we  
**SHINE**



**Our Amazing Learning with Miss Smalldon**

It's been lovely to see the children experience a range of subjects during lockdown; what fabulous learning!



## Additional Notes For Parents of children who are in school:

- Please refrain from sending your child in with nuts or products containing nuts for their lunches or snacks as we have some children with severe allergies within the school
- All children are to wear their PE kits on a **Friday**. Where possible children will be outside, so please send them in wearing a tracksuit.
- As the weather is cold and we are still required to keep classrooms well ventilated, some classrooms are colder than normal. In Key Stage 2, you can send your child with an additional warm top to wear in class. Children should come in wearing their school jumper with an additional top e.g. tracksuit, jumper, hoodie etc. Children must still bring a suitable jacket to wear outside as well.

### Covid Reminder:

If your child is displaying Covid symptoms please let us know immediately and not be brought into school. If you are taking your child for a test, please keep them at home until you have received the results back. They can only come back into school setting once a negative result has been obtained or 10 days following a positive result. Please forward result onto the school once you have them

### New Drop-off and Pick-up Times starting Monday 25th January

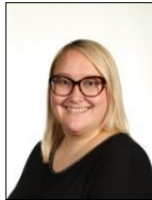
Starting Monday 25th January for the children coming into school, we have adapted our drop-off and pick-up times. This is to help support the staff working in school with the structure of the day. After reviewing our Risk Assessment, we can shorten.

As before, if you have siblings in school, you can drop off and pick up the children together at the earliest time. Please contact the school office if you need any support with the times.

Reception and Year 3 - 8:45am Drop Off and 3.20pm Pick Up  
Year 1 and Year 5 - 8:50am Drop Off and 3.25pm Pick Up  
Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 - 8:55am Drop Off and 3.30pm Pick Up

### Safeguarding Reminder

At St John's C of E Academy, we have a Safeguarding Team who work to keep children safe both in and out of school. Mr Watson, Miss Smallldon and Mrs Henderson are the school's safeguarding team so please contact them if you are worried about the safety of a child who attends our school.



together we  
**SHINE**



### Wellbeing with Mrs Henderson

Everyone is doing the most amazing remote learning, children and parents! We are continuing to support mental health and wellbeing in every way we can for families with children in school and for families at home. Wellbeing sessions are being planned for both children and adults - watch this space! Please remember we are here, if you need to chat, drop me an email or phone me - more now than ever we need to support each other.

Take care,  
Mrs Henderson



Weekly wellbeing tip  
Everything comes to you  
at the right time... be  
patient.

### Stars of the week!



Well done to everyone for a great week; all children at St. John's shine. Here are our 'super' stars of the week!



**Reception: Nathaniel** -for working really hard on some writing and amazing maths learning too!  
Brilliant Job!

**Year 1: Heidi** - for working hard all of her home learning tasks, presentations and phonics!  
Well done!

**Year 2: Caleb** - for excellent learning during his fractions unit and for always being a happy young man!

**Year 3: Eliza** - for her continued hard work with her remote learning and producing fantastic work! You are a Superstar!

**Year 4: Theo** - for his amazing learning this week in every subject! Amazing Superstar - keep this up!

**Year 5: Asher** - for producing an amazing presentation for Science and working as a team.  
Great presenting skills!

**Year 5: Treydon** - for producing an amazing presentation for Science and working as a team.  
Great acting skills.

**Year 5: Judah** - for producing an amazing presentation for Science and working as a team.  
Great presenting skills!



## Pen Licences have been awarded to

Year 4 - Danielle

Year 4 - Eszter

Year 4 - Jacob

Year 4 - Thomas

Year 6 - Daniel

## Fountain Pen Licence

Year 5 - Isabelle

## Sports Award

Year 5 - Gracie: for working really hard and pushing herself with her PE activities at home. Gracie has shown she can hold a wide variety of bridge positions in gymnastics with control. Well Done!

## Super Writer

Reception - Bethany: for her question ideas and brilliant writing of questions for our topic 'need a hero'! Well done Bethany! Keep it up!

Year 1 - Ella: for her amazing work in her phonics learning! Ella has worked hard to develop her reading and writing! Well done Ella!

Year 2 - River: for a super character description and a brilliant use of his imagination!

Year 3 - Seb: has tried so with his presentation and his writing has been absolutely amazing!

Year 4 - Amayah: For her incredible writing linked to Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow - amazing writing this week! Keep this up!

Year 5 - Daisy: A super 1850's newspaper report, written using great formality and language, as well as including lots of the techniques we have been practising!

Year 6 - Eli G: for producing high quality pieces of writing at home with great descriptive vocabulary and figurative language. Great work Eli!



# St. John's Rules for Online Internet Safety



- Tell an adult straight away if you come across anything that upsets you or you think is inappropriate.
- Never give out any personal information such as full name, address and phone numbers
- Never send a picture of yourself to a person that you don't know or haven't met.
- Only use a computer when an adult is nearby.
- Never give out your password to anyone (even your best friends) other than your parents.
- Check with an adult before downloading anything as it could damage the computer.



## Five ways to manage your wellbeing as a parent during lockdown



1. Be realistic and kind to yourself



2. Notice what's on your mind



3. Connect with other parents



4. Create routine and agree your own

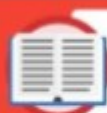


5. Be honest and say sorry when you can

# 7 Top Tips to Support Key Stage 2 Children Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures—these tips are aimed at supporting children in Key Stage 2.

## 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Why not set your child a reading challenge: How many different things can you read in a day?

## 2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to'. Why not take turns to read a page each of a longer novel? So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

## 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the fox on the front cover? Why do you think he's so sad?'

## 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Think about how the characters behaved and interesting things that happened in the plot. You could encourage your child to keep a **reading diary**, describing the big idea of each chapter.

## 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper (or chalk on a path) and draw around your child. Ask them to fill the outline with lots of information about the main character.

## 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'you could use your slimepower to help me cook tea tonight.'

## 7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Give your child choices about what they read, being in control is great motivation! Encourage them to recommend books to family and friends. For example, 'you should read this book, Grandad, because you love funny stories.'

## Follow the TRUST steps



Follow the TRUST steps and keep your child talking about reading

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)  
*Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years*. Education Endowment Foundation: London.  
Available online: [eef.org.uk/literacy/early-years/](https://eef.org.uk/literacy/early-years/)

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*Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools*. Education Endowment Foundation: London.  
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Breadmore, H.L., Vardy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Kiwok, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2019).  
*Literacy Development: Evidence Review*. Education Endowment Foundation: London.  
Available online: [educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy\\_Development\\_Evidence\\_Review.pdf](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf)

# 10 TOP TIPS

## REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

### 1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



### 2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



### 3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



### 4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



### 5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



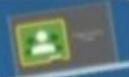
### 6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



### 7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



### 8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



### 9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feedback progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



### 10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.

