



St. Matthew's High Brooms C.E. Primary School
Powder Mill Lane
Tunbridge Wells
TN4 9DY
Telephone: 01892 528098
Email: office@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk
Head teacher: Mrs S Hayward
Deputy Heads: Mrs C Pollard and Mr T Hardwick

Fulfilling God-given potential

Wednesday 15th April

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach what would have been the start to Term 5, we find ourselves in unprecedented times. Schools are open for children of key workers and our school is currently working alongside Speldhurst and Southborough School to provide cover for these children on Southborough School's site. Children and parents across the country are finding that they are facing remote learning now that the Easter holidays are over.

Firstly, we understand that parents are new to this and are having to juggle children of different ages, have their own work commitments, share the technology devices in the house and are possibly caring for vulnerable members of their family too. The suggestions of work that teachers will be sending out are indeed suggestions. You know how your family is working, when you can complete learning activities and when you all need a break.

We are going to send out ideas of work through ClassDojo. This is the teachers' means of communication. Through the class story, we will give ideas of what the children can do, with links to websites and/or downloadable worksheets. Parents can message the teacher individually and send in photos of anything their child has achieved if they want to. Teachers will be monitoring dojo throughout the day and will respond to your questions as soon as they can. We are really enjoying having messages and photos sent in as it helps us feel connected. If you are having trouble connecting to dojo, please send an email through to Carolyn.Pollard@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk

As you will understand, staff are adapting to this new way of working as well and are also juggling their day around their families' needs too. General enquiries can be sent to the admin e-mails office@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk, carly.buckwell@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk and school.secretary@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk. These will be answered or passed onto the correct person as soon as possible.

Teachers are still awarding dojo points, and are monitoring the accelerated reader website and the times table rockstars for children in KS2. We will try to give out learning activities that are varied. We know that if everything is online, it can cause a problem with accessing it and therefore we like to give practical activities too. This is also an ideal time for you to teach your children a skill you have; we have seen some photos of promising bakers, gardeners, builders and painters.





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Each class is working with their partner year group class to come up with ideas for the children this term. Teachers will communicate daily during the week, but may send out plans of activities for the week/s ahead to help you plan what you may like to do with your children. Lots of new companies are coming on board with remote learning and the teachers will have a look at these different sites to see how useful they are. We will post some documents on our home learning page on our website so parents can refer back for information. <https://st-matthews-school.org/parents/home-learning-covid-19>

The most important thing is that our children are well and keep safe and happy throughout this unsettling time. Some children will resist working at home and this can be very stressful so please don't battle with them. You can contact Sue Odell our pastoral manager Sue.Odell@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk or Jan Aspinall our FLO j.aspinall@st-matthews.kent.sch.uk or on 07340 549446 if you need family support.

Finally, we know that this is a difficult time and we want to reassure you that we are here to support your children until they can return to school.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Hayward
Headteacher.

