



St James' Church of England Junior School

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"With exploring minds, and faith; we grow and learn together."

30th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach yet another weekend in lockdown, it seemed a good time to share the school newsletter with you. Today sees the country celebrate the 100th birthday of Capt. Tom Moore; as well as offering our gratitude in the weekly clap for NHS and other keyworkers.

Following the story of Capt. Tom over the last few weeks, has raised the whole nation's spirits and it was great to see the confirmed email from his family that he had received letters from children at St James'. The St James' Way states that we should aim to be kind; be respectful; and give our all. I can't simply think of a bigger ambassador of The St James' Way than Capt. Tom and I hope that all continue to enjoy following this amazing news story.

Children, I have just finished speaking to your teachers and have been busy checking the work coming in via Seesaw. I am so proud of the learning that is taking place in all classes and the fantastic commitment you are showing to producing such excellent work. We understand that this might not be easy, without your teachers being on hand, but it is clear that you continue to give your very best.

Parents, yet again, we truly appreciate all of your efforts. I am aware that the pressures of your own work may well be increasing as various workforces start discussing initial plans in how to come out of lockdown. I am also aware that we have many parents who are key workers who have been working more hours than usual, in very difficult circumstances. Despite this, you are managing to keep your children connected with their learning. As always, we will be showing our gratitude and applauding your efforts tonight.

The message to all families is to continue to do what you can. School staff will continue to call you roughly every fortnight just to check how things are going and discussing how we can support you further.

Seesaw Glitches – Due to the increased traffic on this platform, we are still hearing of some families hitting snags with uploading work. We personally have hit this snag a couple of times but were able to screenshot the work and then added the work via a photo on a new journal. We have also sent out an update to all school iPads which should help.



Year 6 Hoodies Reminder – The virtual shop for the Year 6 Leavers Hoodies is open until Thursday 14th May. You all should have received an email with details of codes needed to access the shop. If you are having problems accessing the shop, please email admin@stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk and we should be able to help. If parents miss this window, the hoodies may still be available but the original costings will increase for individual prints.

Class Photos/Year 6 Photos - We have located the codes and samples for all class codes, including the Year 6 leavers. However, the photo company 'Tempest' still remains closed. We have emailed the firm and will keep all parents updated with prices and availability once we know more.

Transition

We have been busy working together to agree transition plans to secondary schools. Year 6 children going to Whitehaven Academy will be receiving a letter shortly after this one from Whitehaven Academy along with a form called 'Getting to Know You' which should be completed and returned to them. The form asks children for details of interests and friendships. There will be similar contact and documents for the other schools as well and will share them as we receive them.

All Year 2 parents will be notified next week sharing our revised plans for lower school transition. Teachers from our school have started information sharing with staff at St James' Infants, and other neighbouring infant schools, to discuss all children who have chosen to attend with us next year.

VE Day Friday 8th May – Next week commemorates the 75th anniversary of VE day. Staff have discussed that some of the work next week will be around this historic event. Friday 8th May is the rescheduled bank holiday and therefore there will be no Seesaw activities set next Friday.

As always, if there are any elements of our remote schooling that you wish to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to contact me at admin@stjamesjun.cumbria.sch.uk

Enjoy a restful weekend and stay safe

Best Regards



Mr A Beattie
Headteacher



