



St Mary's and St John's CE School

"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

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Wisdom Service Hope

Principal: Martin Serrão BA, MEd (Camb)

11th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well and that the following information proves helpful to you as we continue to traverse this challenging time.

Distance Learning

Development of Distance Learning for secondary students

As it becomes clearer that the majority of our students will not be returning to SMSJ before the summer holidays we are developing our distance learning lessons to maintain our secondary students' commitment to their learning. We will be sharing some video-based lessons which are either recordings of lessons in classrooms or teacher commentaries of screen presentations. Safeguarding remains our key priority and so we have decided to use the IRIS Connect platform which is secure and designed for teaching and learning purposes. We will be reminding our students that our Commitment to Learning policy still applies to their distance learning and that they must use the resources their teachers are developing for them sensibly and responsibly for learning purposes only.

In order to access these resources, your child in secondary will be set-up with an IRIS Connect account using their SMSJ e-mail. They should expect to receive an activation email to their @smsj.london e-mail address by the end of this week. They will then be able to access resources on the IRIS Connect platform which will all be hyperlinked from the distance learning document which remains our main method of communication. Not all lessons will be video-based (indeed, it will take some time for us to build up the video resources as our teachers become more experienced at using the technology) but we hope that this additional facility will provide a healthy blend of activities to sustain levels of engagement as lockdown and shielding continues in these unprecedented times.

This is a new way of working for our teachers and so we would appreciate any feedback you may have - please email office@smsj.london with the subject heading 'Secondary Distance Learning'.

Resources to support home learning from the Education Endowment Foundation

In response to the unprecedented closure of schools, the EEF has produced a set of resources for parents/carers to support effective home learning. These are all based on the evidence-based recommendations in the EEF's guidance reports.

These resources outline straightforward ways in which you can identify learning opportunities in everyday routines and build them into your home life. There is also guidance for supporting your child's behavioural, emotional and social needs at this time.

[7 Top Tips to support reading at home](#)

[7 Top Tips to support the reading of your KS2 child at home](#)

[Helping Home Learning: Read with TRUST full-text infographic](#)

[Helping Home Learning: Talk with TRUST full-text infographic](#)

[Supporting home learning routines: Planning the day](#)

[Supporting daily routines during school closures](#)

Advice from the Government regarding supporting home learning for secondary school students.

The government has also published advice for parents and carers to help them to support their children with their home learning:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Additional activities, resources and opportunities for children to complete at home

SMSJ Foodbank

We are acutely aware that some of our SMSJ families have suffered financially during this period of lockdown with a loss of family income. In line with our SMSJ vision, we have a strong desire to serve our local community and work together to help support each other through this difficult time. While our families receiving free school meals are receiving vouchers during this period of school closure, there are many families who are waiting to have their income assessed and falling into debt. We do not want anybody to be worried about providing their families with essentials over the summer holidays and so we would like to ask for donations from our staff, parents and carers to put into parcels for those families we know to be in need.

If you are in a position to donate, we would love to receive the following items at our Stamford Raffles Campus, Monday-Friday between 09:00 and 14:00:

- Dried, packets and canned food: cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, tea, fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, Fruit juice, sugar, noodles, rice pudding, custard, milk powder
- Cooking oil, washing up liquid
- Jars of provisions: pasta sauce, coffee, jam
- Toiletries: deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary towels, nappies (all sizes) and hand wipes

Financial Education

As a national charity, Young Enterprise motivates young people to succeed in the changing world of work by equipping them with the work skills, knowledge and confidence they need. Please see the link for Home Learning Packs [Young Money as part of Young Enterprise](#)

The Red Cross: First Aid Champions

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak the Red Cross have decided to make [First aid champions](#) available earlier, so children and young people can learn vital first aid skills at home and have the confidence to help others in need of medical assistance.

Careers resource for secondary school children

This is a useful [resource](#) for parents and carers discussing future careers with their children.

[Youth Employment 'Looking for Work'](#) is a comprehensive booklet from Youth Employment UK which aims to support young people exploring work and their skills and also to be of use to young people actively looking for work.

If your child is interested in a career in medicine, they could try [Virtual Work Experience](#) provided by Brighton and Sussex Medical School. This course provides a 'virtual' work experience for students looking to apply to medical school. They will be introduced to the NHS before exploring the roles and skill sets of six different medical specialists. Along the way, they will also consider some of the challenges and wider issues doctors face.

For those considering a career in fashion have a look at the Fashion Retail Academy's free Saturday Club. Click [here](#) to see how to apply, what you would cover, and how it could help you.

Wellbeing

The killing of George Floyd and the riots in America

We pride ourselves at SMSJ on our social harmony and we were deeply shocked by the death of George Floyd in America. We would have discussed this at school and listened to our children about how they feel about what happened and the protests that have since occurred here in Britain but we are unable to have those discussions until they return to school. In place of discussing this at school we anticipate that you will want to talk about these issues at home. *Success at School* would like to share some resources to help students and communities to gain a better understanding of the situation that is unfolding in the USA, and how it relates to all of us. Click [here](#) for more information in child-friendly language to help you to discuss these events with your child.

Resources to support children returning to school and all families in Barnet

We all remember that 'back to school' feeling after the summer holidays each year. We are very aware that for our year groups returning to school, even though they are not returning full time yet, our children may have feelings of apprehension and anxiety which will have been exacerbated by concerns about Covid-19.

Barnet council has produced several resources to support families preparing to return to school as well as collating links to helpful information and resources for all families, please click [here](#).

'While We Can't Hug'

With lots of little children heading back to school, '[While We Can't Hug](#)', by Eoin McLaughlin and illustrated by Polly Dunbar is a picture book for helping children to understand social distancing and how to show affection in other ways.

Prayer Spaces at Home

Please click on this [link](#) to download prayer activities for families to use at home.

Healthy Eating

We are all struggling at times to eat healthily due to the constant proximity of the fridge. [Food A Fact of Life](#) resources are updated every 2 weeks to help us learn about healthy eating and hygienic food preparation.

Physical Activity

Ideas and resources from **London Sport** are available here:

[Keeping Children and Young People active](#) featuring [Weekly challenges](#) for schools, families, carers and children to use to encourage 15 minutes of jogging or running outside: **#DailyMileAtHome**

Young Minds

Advice from [Young Minds](#) is available via this link on how to support your child's mental health and well-being through the pandemic. Topics include: supporting your child if they're feeling worried, supporting your family's well-being during isolation; accessing mental health support and treatment for your child during the pandemic and advice on what to do if your child will not stay at home.

NSPCC support for parents/carers of children with special educational needs

Children with special educational needs and disabilities may face lots of changes in their day to day lives because of the coronavirus situation. Their routines, regular support and the people they see may all be different now.

As a parent or carer you may feel concerned about how the current situation will affect your child. Please see advice and support from the NSPCC [here](#).

Updated advice regarding children with asthma

As some children return to school this week the Asthma Team wanted to get in touch and let you know that there is updated health advice on going back to school, on the [Asthma UK](#) website. They've had lots of questions from parents and carers who have children with asthma about the reopening of schools - much of this is covered in their advice. Asthma UK is following government guidance and advising parents/carers who are worried about sending their child back to school to contact their GP. There is also a page advising parents/carers how they can prepare their children for going back to school including [tips to cut the risk](#) of them having an asthma attack. Dr Louise Flemming has written a [blog](#) for Asthma UK on children, asthma and COVID-19 risk.

Safeguarding

Online Safety

Home activity packs from **ThinkUKnow** are available here regarding online safety:

[Online Safety At Home](#) including the [Digital 5 a day](#) guide which is a useful framework to help children get the most from their time online and balance digital activity with overall wellbeing from the Children's Commissioner.

Safeguarding hub for Parents/Carers

With children likely to be spending more time online, it is a good time to review the risks certain websites, apps and social media can pose, and be aware of the steps you can take to protect your child.

We have subscribed to a safeguarding hub that allows you to access interactive guidance on setting up parental controls on your child's devices, as well as guidance on apps like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram and more. Please click on the SMSJ link below:

> <https://parenthub.thekeysupport.com?uuid=5e489983-03b8-4255-ab90-6fb02aff9aad>



Should students or parents/carers have any safeguarding concerns during school closure, please email our Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

- Mrs. Pittaway secondaryhead@smsj.london
- Mr. Atkinson primaryhead@smsj.london
- Ms. Silva msilva@smsj.london

Please note that the school email will be monitored during usual school opening hours only. If a child is at risk of immediate danger please contact the Barnet MASH team on 020 8359 4066 or the police on 999.

We wish you and your family the very best of health. Please keep us updated if any immediate family member does become ill so that we may offer any support that we can.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Atkinson'.

Mr Atkinson
Head of Primary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Pittaway'.

Mrs Pittaway
(Acting) Head of Secondary