

*ST MARY'S R.C.
PRIMARY & NURSERY
SCHOOL*

*Headteacher
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Tuesday 13th October, 2020

Good morning,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

As you are aware, it has been unavoidably necessary for various bubbles to close over the last few weeks. When this happens, the teachers post digital work daily for the children to access on Class Dojo so that they do not miss out on their education. This work is as near as possible to the curriculum that the children would access at school.

Although Class Dojo is great, it is not a powerful enough platform for us to teach in the way that new DFE guidance demands. Therefore, for year 1 upwards, we are in the process of moving to a new digital platform, Microsoft Teams. This will give us the ability to teach remotely through the day in 'real-time', i.e. lessons begin and end at certain times, children complete work and send it to the teacher and the teacher responds to the work, then sets more. We will also be able to do registers. Wherever possible, parents must try to support their children in this. Nursery and Reception will continue to use Dojo as their platform.

Your child will soon bring home with them their email usernames and passwords for Microsoft Teams. The accounts can only be used as part of the school Teams account, and can't be used to send or receive emails to anyone other than the class teacher within Teams. To access Teams, type into your browser:

teams.microsoft.com

You will then have option to download the app or use Teams through your browser. We recommend you download the app.

Further guidance for parents can be found here -

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/remote-learning/parents>

The work set on Teams will be mixed –some will be completed on-line, but for other tasks your child will need to write them up in the exercise books provided. Some work can be printed and kept with the books.

The children are being taught how to use Teams in school, but I urge you to familiarise yourself with it so that you can assist at home if your child's class has to close. Over the next week or so, there may be a transition period whereby the teacher uses both Dojo and Teams – please bear with us on this.

Also, a few weeks ago, I sent out a letter asking you to let us know if you didn't have a device and thus required a paper work pack in the event of a closure. Can you please contact us about this if you haven't done so already. We had lots of children who needed work packs last week during closures who we weren't aware of. As you can imagine, we need to know this information in advance of any closure.

Finally, if your child has been affected by recent closures, thank you for encouraging them to engage with their remote learning, whether that be digital or through a work pack. Remote learning will probably be with us for

quite some time, and it is essential that your child does the work set for them, otherwise they will fall behind massively.

If you need any further information on this, can I refer you to our remote learning policy, found on the school website. Please contact school if you have any further queries.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. McGrail
Deputy Head



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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**