



# ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well in these challenging times. I thought it would be useful now that we are a week into the lockdown period to outline the homelearning that we are using at St Raphael's and to outline in more detail how this will work. Our aim in setting up the homelearning package is to ensure the continued progress and attainment of all our pupils throughout this time.

The children at home are adapting to homelearning brilliantly and as always we are very proud of them. It has been good to see the work that they are posting to their teachers. I would also like to thank you for your support in enabling the children to access their learning. The staff are working very hard both with the number of children still attending school and being available throughout the school day to support as needed via Seesaw or Tapestry.

Schools are providing this support in a variety of ways and I would like to outline our approach to help everyone understand why we feel at this time that this provision will have the best impact on the children's learning. We are always reviewing our processes in line with Government guidance and continually trying to improve provision.

At present our main homelearning package is via Seesaw in Years 1-6 and Tapestry in EYFS.

Below is an outline of the strengths of this provision and our reasons for using this;

- The key advantage of Seesaw/Tapestry is that the class teacher is online throughout the day, from 9:00am - 3:15pm with lunch from 12 -1pm. This means that children can seek support and guidance at a time that fits in with busy home schedules and are not restricted to set times. The teachers have uploaded work prior to the day beginning to further support busy households who may like to prepare in advance for the day's work.
- Seesaw/Tapestry offers a continuous 'live chat' between children and staff. Staff will respond to queries through comments or by video to explain concepts and to model answers. Children can upload a note using the Seesaw class app asking for help and then the teacher can respond directly offering individual support as needed. This allows for immediate impact on individual children's progress.
- Videos can be uploaded via drawing tool on Seesaw prepared by the teacher offering explanations of new or tricky concepts



"May God's love shine in our lives as we care, share and learn together."

- When children respond to the activity, the work is collated so the class teacher can respond and assess how children are working at home. This also allows for follow up work and next steps to be provided as appropriate. Work therefore is being matched to individual children's needs. Positive feedback and comments from both parents and staff can also be written.
- Seesaw allows for recorded explanations that can be watched as many times as necessary, these can be sent to whole classes or individual children depending on need. This allows the children to watch an explanation again if they need to.
- Seesaw/Tapestry allows for flexibility when organising a busy day at home. For larger families or those with limited access to devices it is not possible for all children to be online for live lessons. Seesaw allows children to access the learning when they can and no child is left out.
- We are conscious of the increased screen time that children may have as they spend more time away from school, by having shorter focussed support videos that can be watched at different times we are aiming to keep screen time to a minimum.
- We are also always conscious of the need to maintain safeguarding procedures and internet safety
- The government guidance advises the use of existing technology to support the smooth transition to home learning. Seesaw/Tapestry has been used in school for a number of years now and has been the platform for the submission of homework since September. Therefore children, staff and parents are familiar with the systems.
- Other resources available on the Internet include TT Rockstars, Lexia, Reading/Reading Journals and online libraries. These are also all part of the daily routine where possible. Links to these are available on the school website.

I hope that this helps to clarify our homelearning package. As always if you have any questions or need help to access the resources please contact school.

We look forward to when we can all be together in school.

With best wishes and continued prayers,

*Mrs L. Lakner*

Mrs Lynn Lakner



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