

# SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thursday 7th May 2020

A voluntary aided Church of England primary school in the heart of the City of London



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all continuing to look after yourselves and your families.

As we come to the close of another week of home learning in all of its different guises, I wanted to remind you, reassure you and reinforce the fact that during this time of closure our main aim is for families to feel **supported by school and not burdened by the home learning we are publishing**.

We have over 280 children who belong to the school from many different families, backgrounds and circumstances. Every child and every family has a slightly different way of working and thinking, as well as different opinions about how things could be approached. Please remember that we are all doing our very best to support you and your children and while we really do welcome feedback from you, it is just not possible to put everyone's suggestions into practice (what would please one person will often upset another).

Whilst we would very much like all children to engage in the home-learning provided – this is absolutely not at the expense of the well-being of the family as that would cause more harm than any intended good. I ask that you have a look at what the teacher has suggested and have a go. Don't worry about doing everything. Don't worry about the deadlines set. Don't worry about uploading every completed piece of work onto Google Classroom. Just do what works for your child. If you have a query then call us at school, email your child's teacher or join one of our Zoom sessions.

I am only too aware that there are many competing priorities at home – more than one child needing attention and support, you need to get on with your own job, vulnerable family members who need to be cared for, grieving and worry for loved ones etc etc. All of these, plus school work and uncertainty about the future equals stress and anxiety. Wherever possible we don't want to add to that burden and if we can help at all please ask! What I would like to ask in return however is that, whenever you do communicate with us, you bear in mind our whole staff team are in similarly difficult, uncertain and unusual times to yourselves and that in all of the support we are giving you, we are only trying to do our best.



This year our early **May bank holiday** has been moved to tomorrow. In assembly on Monday I asked if anyone knew why? One child got back to me to let me know it was because we are going to be remembering VE day. I wonder if any other children could add any more information to this statement? If you could email me with your information and comments, I will read them out or show them (as appropriate) in assembly on Monday! My email address is: [aal-lan@sirjohncassprimary.org](mailto:aal-lan@sirjohncassprimary.org) or you can send something to your classteacher who can forward it to me. If you would like information to help explain VE day to your child then you might want to look at this website: [https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance?](https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance?seg=WPDW3B)

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**Google Classrooms** has now been rolled out to every class from Nursery upwards. Teachers are posting on there regularly and it is a great place to say 'Hi' to classmates and share a joke as well as doing some of the online learning. By joining in with a Google feed a couple of times each week, we can see that your child is active and well and therefore we don't need to add to your burden by bombarding you with texts to ask if you are all safe.

**Zoom drop ins:** We launched our drop ins this week on Tuesday and have had a number of families contacting us in this way. We will continue trialling this for next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and will send out joining details for next week's sessions on Monday.

**Duo Lingo:** It's really good to see that during lockdown, many of our children are continuing to learn French and making use of the Duo Lingo accounts that we created for everyone! Last week was a really active week, with some children getting hundreds of points! There were two classes that stood out from the crowd in regards to the number of active children so I'd like to say a huge 'Well Done' to classes 5 and 2. Year 6 had some incredibly active users who achieved very high scores – with James at an enormous 1,198, Kiara with 559 and Alba with 421 points for the week. Mme Ghui will be posting her next French lesson over the weekend so keep an eye out for it!

**Makaton signing:** I wonder how many of you have said Good Morning over the last week and if any of you included the Makaton sign? This week the sign of the week is 'look'. Let's see if I remember to use it in assembly on Monday!

**Science Week / Fair:** On Monday May 18th, children will be given a science challenge. They will have a week to complete it and submit their findings. There will be a small science prize for the winner in each class. Please don't worry about the difficulty of the task, just have a go and remember that if it is going to cause your family difficulties then the priority needs to be your wellbeing.

**Community Service during difficult times:** I have been really proud to hear on the grapevine of some of our children's involvement in community support activities going on locally. It really is a testament to yourselves and the school's values that our children want to offer their service and have the confidence to do so. One family that was brought to my attention this week were the Wright family. The 4 family members completed 10 hours of skipping, alternating members every 15 minutes - about 50,000 skips in total. This skip-a-thon was in order to raise money for poor families in Bangladesh via a Hospital called Lamb Hospital. The hospital is taking food packages out to families with no food to eat during lockdown. By the end, they were understandably tired however they have raised more than £1,500 so far!! They would like to thank everyone who has supported them with this.



**Free School Meals:** A few weeks ago I included criteria in order for families to be eligible to claim Free School Meals and therefore during the closure, have access to supermarket vouchers. Since I sent the criteria out I know that many of your financial situations will have changed. I am therefore putting the criteria in the newsletter again. If you think that you are now eligible, please do get in touch with the office either by phone (9am- 3.30pm) or by emailing: [office@sirjohncassprimary.org](mailto:office@sirjohncassprimary.org) to discuss receiving the vouchers. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:
  - younger than the compulsory age for starting school
  - in full-time education (when we are not in lockdown)

*Best wishes for a peaceful Bank holiday weekend,  
Miss Allan*

