

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 5. I hope you are all remaining healthy and happy. It is definitely a time to remember our school value of **RESILIENCE!**

From next week, St Botolph's will become the Gravesham hub school for the Trust. We will remain open for vulnerable children (whose parents have been contacted) and those who have parents employed as keyworkers in roles critical to the government's response to the Covid19 crisis and who have absolutely no alternative.

Home learning restarted after the Easter break, with our new Take One Project of 'The St Botolph's Olympic Games'. We have had some fantastic results from our English Challenge, with one pupil finding 149 words! Some of the longest words found include: encourage, athletics, smoothest, optically and mythological. The winner by far is **metapsychologist**, found by a Year 6 pupil!

Don't forget to get in touch if you are having any problems. We are here to help.

Kind regards,

Amy Chitty
Head Teacher



FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

Children eligible for free school meals under the Pupil Premium Grant can now benefit from a national voucher scheme, allowing them to continue to access meals; this does not apply to Universal Infant Free School Meals.

Every eligible child receives shopping vouchers worth £15 a week to spend at supermarkets while schools are closed due to coronavirus. Parents receive the vouchers by email, which can then be redeemed online.

To check to see if you are eligible to claim free school meals, please visit: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>

If you are already receiving the vouchers, please be patient. The system is currently working at full capacity and everyone is experiencing delays, with some parents receiving their vouchers before others. If you are having problems, please email the School Office at office@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk



ONLINE E-SAFETY

During this unusual time, it is likely that your child is spending even more time online than they would normally do. It is extremely important that parents monitor what their children are accessing online. Please read the Government advice via the link below and ensure that you are proactive in monitoring your children's online activity so that they remain protected.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>



GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

It is important to remember and adhere to Government guidance:

Stay at home:

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

For more advice on what you can and cannot do, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

For guidance on handwashing visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>



Special Edition Newsletter

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www.st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk



Inspired by Jesus, helping children to become the best they can be

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your feedback regarding the online learning via Seesaw. Please continue to let us know how you are getting on.

Here are some of the comments we have received so far:

"I find it very helpful and easy to use. My child helped me in the beginning. You are always very supportive and it helps to know you are there. Thanks, as it means a lot to myself and my child x"

"Good morning. With your help I think things are going well with Seesaw. You are a great support all the time to the children and us parents. Thank you very much and we hope we are doing what's needed"

"I think teachers are doing a good job. The videos you are sending seem to be very helpful. And the prompt answers we get from you are really appreciable"

"We're finding it really easy to use, the boys are both confident in using it independently..... It is extremely helpful to get feedback from yourselves, especially as it's been a little/long time since I've done some of this work. Only small negative - only one child can be on a device unless you log in and out but we have worked our way around that now.... We are extremely impressed with this system and all the work the St Botolph's teachers are doing."

"It was quite difficult in the beginning but I think it's a bit better now because of the Olympics - it makes it a bit easier for the siblings, so thank you. Not every school is doing what St Botolph's is doing with the kids. Thank you very much."

"Thank you for your hard work every day. I cannot imagine how hard it must be to record all the teaching material and then also look at each and everyone's responses. We are really grateful for this platform and your support."

"I think it is great and really impressed with the constant work that is being sent. I think the videos of teachers reading and explaining the task and showing how to do the work is excellent. We have all found this a lot more helpful. Thank you for everything you are doing to help keep the boys up to date."

"In all honesty, we are completely blown away by how easy you have made this whole transition for us. I will admit I was absolutely dreading becoming a teacher but I have been pleasantly surprised by how much I have enjoyed it. It has been so nice to get a real insight into what the children get up to every day. I feel the amount of work set is just right and appreciate the feedback on every item completed. It is also nice to have structure to their day when it comes to their school work too. A million thank yous."

The link below provides guidance for parents and carers on supporting their children's education at this time:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR0q2NLL_kdWw-Gs9xogMHVx3AazEz_ChwpA81kUtDpvmIxpNRmwltsNs

Important Email addresses:-

During the school closure, you can contact our staff via email at the addresses below:-

General enquiries:- office@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk

Safeguarding:- headteacher@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk
senco@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk

IT problems:- assistanthead@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk

We will do our best to reply within 24 hours.

Our values The Three R's—Respect, Resilience, Responsibility