



Monday 19th October 2020

Information about 'Seesaw'



In order to improve our offer as a school we have recently subscribed to the online platform 'Seesaw'. We feel that 'Seesaw' will provide a safe online space for teachers to set work to be undertaken at home.



Over the years, we have received feedback from parents/carers about making use of a resource such as 'Seesaw' and we now think the time is right to add to the services we offer.

*****In the first instance, our use of 'Seesaw' will be primarily used to support teaching and learning with individuals or whole classes during periods of self-isolation or lockdown*****

*****Therefore, our aim is that from Monday 2nd November 2020, should your child be absent from school as they are self-isolating teachers will set remote home learning activities via the 'Seesaw' App*****

Within 'Seesaw' there are facilities for teachers to set work for children to complete either on screen or on paper and children can upload their completed work to the platform to be sent back to the teacher. Staff can also add links to websites, PowerPoint presentations and they can also pre-record themselves so that children are able to listen to, or watch, their teacher. This could support children in undertaking their learning more independently whilst isolating.

We realise that not everyone will have access to Wi-Fi and/or devices and we are looking at ways to support families in being able to access 'Seesaw' at home.

Paper copies of work can be made available upon request if there is no online access at the time of self-isolation or lockdown.

In order for you to be in a position to access 'Seesaw', we have set up our class accounts in school and, throughout this week, we are aiming for your children to spend some 'age appropriate' time becoming familiar with the resource.

Throughout this week, each class will visit the Computing suite to access their 'Seesaw' account and see how it works (teachers will maybe upload some work for them to submit). It may not be as appropriate for some of our very younger classes to do this as their accessibility may be dictated by you as parents/carers, whereas older children could be expected to access 'Seesaw' more independently.

On Thursday, your child will come home with a paper copy of their log-in information and so we are asking that you download the free 'Seesaw' App and follow the instructions to log in. Our staff will send you a message on Friday to see if all is working.

Please note: for Nursery and Reception families we will continue to make use of Tapestry in our usual way for now.

'Never settle for less than your best'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

Throughout school, from Nursery to Year 6, we will be developing our use of 'Seesaw' over the course of the Autumn Term. Therefore teachers may start to make use of 'Seesaw' throughout November and December to communicate with you and set some of our usual home learning activities for **all** children (and not just those in self-isolation). We would then look to take feedback from you before we take any potential next steps.

On Monday 2nd November, I will email you a copy of our 'Remote Learning Provision' Policy as it is from this date that we will start to use 'Seesaw' for some of our children as needed. Please see the full time line below for our planned approach:

'Seesaw' at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery	
Date	Action
Monday 19 th October 2020	'Information about Seesaw' emailed to parents/carers
Monday 19 th October 2020 – Thursday 22 nd October 2020	Classes to spend time in the Computing suite accessing their 'Seesaw' account <i>(may not be as appropriate for younger classes)</i> *Parent/carers start to download the 'Seesaw' App ready for use at home*
Thursday 22 nd October 2020	Paper copies of individual 'Seesaw' log in information to be sent home with each child.
Friday 23 rd October 2020	Class teachers to send a message to children in their class via 'Seesaw' <i>(parents/carers to check that message has been received and everything seems to be working).</i>
Monday 2 nd November 2020	Approved 'Remote Home Learning Provision' Policy emailed to all parents/carers. *Remote Home Learning for children in self-isolation will be set via the 'Seesaw' App from now on*
November 2020 – December 2020	Teaching staff to further develop and explore the use of 'Seesaw' with all children in class and not just those in isolation <i>(some of our usual whole class Home Learning tasks may be set via 'Seesaw').</i>
January 2021	Take feedback from all stakeholders and decide next steps with the longer term use of 'Tapestry' in Early Years and 'Seesaw' across the whole school with all children.

Things have certainly changed since September 2012 when one of the first things I did as Headteacher of St. George's Central was introduce a text messaging service for parents/carers. Since then we have introduced Tapestry for Early Years, we have developed our use of School Twitter accounts, we have a School Facebook account and we make use of our email system to regularly communicate with you. Each platform serves its own purpose and we simply see the addition of 'Seesaw' as something that will further enhance our provision, particularly in terms of home learning opportunities. Should you need to speak to us about access to Wi-Fi and/or devices at home then please contact Mrs Smith in school.

I thank you for your continued support throughout this challenging time and hope you have a positive experience of using 'Seesaw' over the next few months.

Yours Sincerely



Mr M Grogan
Headteacher

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