

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



23 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you all managed to have a restful half term with as much time away from a screen as possible. It was certainly a delight to have some mild weather and sunshine this past weekend, a little taster of the warmer weather to come this term.

I wanted to take this time to write to you all with an update and review of our remote learning offer. As I write this letter we are now on our 30th day of fully remote schooling. This has created a huge number of challenges that I am proud to say the entire SMA community have risen to and worked together to overcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the support you have offered your child to enable them to access and engage in high quality learning these past 30 days. I know, as a parent to two children myself, that home schooling is not always easy, and that keeping the pupils motivated at home is a full time job in itself! Our analysis has shown that engagement in online learning continues to be good for all year groups, this is a testament to all of our stakeholders, including yourselves, who have worked tirelessly to ensure the home learning offer is engaging, diverse and interesting enough to keep our pupils focused and on task.

Thank you to those who took the time to complete the parent pupil survey last term. We are clear that it is important that we keep our home learning offer under constant review and ensure we adapt and improve it wherever necessary so that we are fully confident that all lessons are high quality and match the planned curriculum. The outcome of the survey was overwhelmingly positive which is fabulous news, I have outlined some of the key points below.

We are delighted that 80% of the 152 parents who participated in the survey are very happy with the remote learning offer and agree that the amount of work being set is of the right quality and quantity.

Question	Strongly Agree and Agree	
	Number	%
I am very happy with the remote learning offer at SMA	121	80%
I am able to support my child with their learning each day	126	83%
My child is highly motivated to learning	100	66%
My child receives the correct amount of work to complete each day	122	80%
My child is coping well working in the home environment	110	72%

If you do have any other additional feedback, please do let your child's Form Tutor or Director of Learning know in the first instance.

Like you, we were carefully listening to the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday and cannot wait to have our pupils back in school, back in the classrooms, with teachers teaching from the front of the room rather than a screen. As you know it was advised that all pupils will return to school from Monday 8 March 2021 and that all secondary pupils must be tested three times upon their return. We will therefore be arranging a staggered return for our secondary pupils between Monday 8 March and Wednesday 10 March in order to ensure the smooth running of testing. Further details will be communicated to you all next week.

Until the pupils return please continue to support your child and ensure they are on time for form each morning and are in the right frame of mind for learning.

Yours faithfully



Ms E Thurston
Deputy Headteacher