

Top Tips for Setting up Home Learning

#STGHomeLearning

1

Find the Right Platform

Use a platform you and your school community are familiar with, in Primary we are using SeeSaw and in Secondary, Teams. Both are already well-established.

2

Establish a Daily Routine

A routine helps students, families and teachers to know what is expected of them and maintain a positive work ethic.

3

Be Creative

Screen time quickly gets boring and not all families have enough devices or sufficient WiFi. Interactive games and garden activities have proved very popular.

4

Keep in Contact Through Voice Messages, Video Tutorials & Live Lessons

The students miss their teachers. It is great to hear their voices. I streamed an online assembly. Definitely not my best, but I received hundreds of positive comments from students and parents.

5

Encourage the Students to Upload Photos and Videos

We miss the students too, seeing their work is amazing. SeeSaw is a great platform for sharing work, but we also share highlights on Twitter. We have seen so many imaginative examples of work, from exploding science experiments, Maths and Phonics around the house, beautiful artwork, meditation and exercises - the list is endless...

6

Listen to the Parents

It's a learning curve for all of us, and parents can feel really overwhelmed. St George's has adapted work and added core and optional tasks, as well as more teaching videos. Parents also have some good suggestions - like our weekly virtual assembly.

7

Take Care of your Staff

It's definitely not an extended holiday. It's easy to get burnt out attempting to respond to all of the work and comments. By early week 2 some classes have had over a thousand posts. After three days, I suggested a limited screen time for staff. They also need time to prepare resources. This week we will look at ways to divvy up responses between teachers, TAs and specialist staff, in order to share the workload.

8 Keep in Touch

Our teams have regular online meetings, and are able to keep each other's spirits up, as well as sharing ideas. My management team share silly videos and have a song of the week. I notice BSN Secondary were in fancy dress for their management meeting (unless that is their normal attire..). I will be promoting our radio show on radio ARA (every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4pm!), and putting out a shout to our community. Our nurses are also on hand to help and support those who are struggling. I am also spending more time on Twitter which helps to keep in touch.

9 Share Resources

We Teachers are great at sharing best practice. I am hugely proud of the work we are doing at St George's, and want to share with others starting out on the journey. I have tweeted some ideas, I will share on the public SeeSaw platform and continue to look for ways to share more widely.

10 Think Outside of The Box

Our teachers are becoming more imaginative every day. Our School nurse filmed walks in the Mullerthal with her dog Chilli. EYFS staff have set activities using toys, and hidden phonics and tricky words around the house. Our Music teacher has dressed up to film a lip sync challenge. We have Maths games with cars, practical science activities and even online individual music tuition. One teacher live streamed a cookery lesson - a paella dish!

11 Encourage Daily Exercise

Our PE staff have uploaded videos of dance and exercise. All teachers are encouraging students to get outside in the fresh air.

12 Remember You Are Not Alone!

We are a community, from our School and beyond. We are all here to help and support each other.

#everythingisgoingtobealright
#InThisTogether
#STGHomeLearning