



28th April 2020

As always, I hope and trust that you are all keeping safe and well. At this time we are very conscious that many of you may be experiencing challenges in maintaining the novelty of home learning and keeping yourself and your children motivated during this time. If you are in this position - be assured - you are not alone!

Like myself, you can feel overwhelmed by the constant bombardment of information overload with school-work being scheduled, online materials being recommended and balancing this with trying to keep a sense of normality and routine going on at home. It is not an easy task. Remember, you don't have to do everything and you can't do everything. You know what is best for your child and for your situation and we know you are doing your very best. When schooling does return we will do our very best to ensure your child is at the level they should be. The most important thing is to do some maths and reading each day and balance this with the other activities teachers are suggesting and maybe even take part in our "Make, Bake, Grow and Learn" Challenge.

Through our website we offer an opportunity to keep in contact with you and our comments section affords you an opportunity to get in touch with us. Please do this if you have any questions, queries, concerns or worries. After all that is what we are here for. We would also love to see some of your child's work being added.

For fear of adding to your information overload our links page'

<https://www.stmaryspsportaferry.com/home-learning/links>; attempts to direct you to the online pages that we believe are most useful for you at this time. Today I have added a further two links that I feel you might find helpful. The Department of Education has now collated a range of online resources, which are intended to be helpful to families and pupils during the Covid-19 situation. These can be found at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/support-parents-and-pupils> This site is being constantly added to and is a major signpost for recommended sites, many of which we have also added to our links page.

Also https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/?mc_cid=7dede45ca9&mc_eid=32b963c483#closeSignup contains a lot of information and resources around routines and key learning that you may find useful.

Take care
Mr Gilchrist