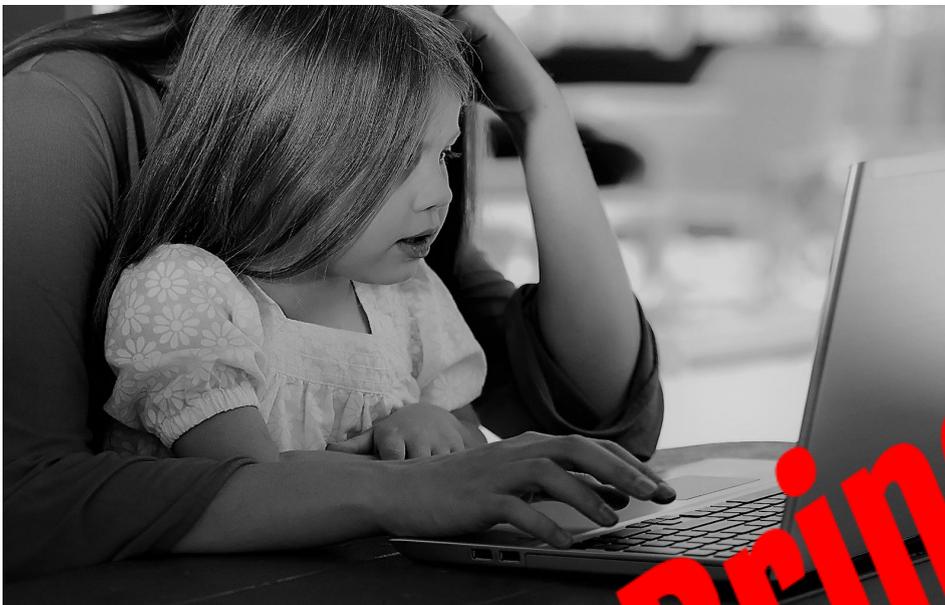


# Learning in Lockdown

A guide to supporting your child at home.



**Bring It!**

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No one expects parents to act as teachers, or to provide the activities and feedback that a school would. Your teachers will guide you. Please make sure you are set up on Class Dojo (this is separate to Google Classroom) to enable your teacher to message you easily. They can then talk you through anything you might need to ask. Parents and carers should do their best to help children and support their learning - and that is all anyone can ask. We know that many of you are juggling work and several young ones at home. If you are worried, talk to us. We will be able to help you prioritise your child's learning so that even if you can't do it all, you can focus on the things that will make the most impact.

## **Remote Learning at St Martin's**

Throughout the Autumn term, teachers have been exposing children to Google Classroom and sharing some work online for children at home isolating. Our children are familiar with how it works. Remote learning using Google Classroom as a platform is our Gold Standard of teaching whilst in lockdown. It allows for live sessions and has the ability for children to respond and teachers to feedback. This is key to making progress in learning. It also gives the children the chance to see friends and teachers, which is beneficial for their mental wellbeing. (And ours).

Our intention is to provide the same learning we were planning to cover before the lockdown. It is important that we make the most of every opportunity to maintain their progress considering this is the second lockdown this year: they have missed much learning.

Whilst it is true that some children will catch up, it is unlikely to be easy. Our aim is to keep them ticking along so that when they return to school they can pick up and move on with little upheaval. Education is directly linked to the quality of future lives and our children deserve the best.

We understand that many of you have asked for paper packs. But these are rarely meaningful learning tasks and there will be no opportunity for teachers to mark them and feedback to children. They can be good practice materials and will keep our children occupied, but sadly do not contribute to effective learning.

This is why we are committed to overcoming any barrier to online remote learning. Please talk to us if you are finding it hard. Any new way of working can be difficult to get to grips with, but we promise you that it is worth it. The government is supporting schools with Chromebooks and data so that we can loan them to you at home.

Google Classroom can be accessed via a Chromebook, smartphone, iPad, kindle, laptop or even the PlayStation and XBOX.

Where available, we can loan a school Chromebook so that you can access Google Classroom. Please contact us if you need one and we will allocate them in order of priority. We can also support with wi-fi and data if required.

**HOW TO ACCESS GOGGLE CLASSROOM FROM AN XBOX AND PS4**

**PS4**

1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:  
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'  
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>
8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.

**XBOX**

1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for Google Classroom
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.



## ***Bring It!***

Our philosophy of 'Bring it!' comes from The Parable of the Talents which teaches we are born with God given gifts and talents to be nurtured and grown so that we grow into the people we were created to be. Encourage your child to follow their interests and skills - whatever they may be. We want them to take pride in who they are and what they can do! And they are all St Martin's stars.

## **Available resources**

The learning set on Google Classroom will be created for your children by teachers that know your children, and their ability and needs, really well. Therefore, this is the learning that needs to be completed. If your child is looking for more, here are some suggestions:

Try using these [online educational resources](#).

[Educational programmes to help primary school children learn at home](#) are available from the BBC.

To encourage reading, we've brought together [10 top tips to encourage children to read](#).

Libraries in England are able to open from 4 July and digital library resources can be found at [Libraries Connected](#).

Paper, scissors, pencils etc are available from our reception area. Please come and collect what you need. We have also set out some time fillers or extra activities that you are welcome to take home for your children. **Please use the antibacterial gel provided, before and after making your selection.** The reception will be open to come and take what you need from 9 - 3:15 pm. **Remember though: the office is closed.**

## Structuring the day

Do not worry about trying to keep your child to the full routine they had at school. However, children will feel more comfortable and learn better with a predictable routine to the day, even if this is difficult.

Individual teachers will give you advice on how to structure the day. However, you should try to make sure that your children:

- get up and go to bed at the same time each day
- have regular meal times
- have regular breaks
- make time to be active – children are used to regular play at lunch and break times

## Using digital devices

At St Martin's, we have set them work to do on a digital device such as a laptop, desktop, tablet or smartphone. They can also complete the tasks in a book or on paper.

Set age-appropriate parental controls on any devices your child uses and supervise their use of websites and apps. See [advice on keeping them safe online](#) and talk to your child about online safety.

## Reducing screen time

Digital devices are not the only way to learn. Manage screen time with a timer and break up screen time by getting your child to:

- use books and other printed materials that their school has provided or that you have at home
- write by hand – try asking them to complete work by hand, write a diary, a summary of things they've done each day or 'to do' lists
- be active and get away from the screen regularly – see these [physical activity resources](#) for primary school children
- stop using digital devices at least an hour before bed

Mr Barker, our PE and Sports Lead, has set daily and weekly PE challenges to help keep your children motivated. A Sports Personality of the week is celebrated in Friday morning assemblies.

# Supporting a culture of learning at home

## PARENT'S GUIDE TO A GROWTH MINDSET

*Your brain is like a muscle. When you learn, your brain grows.  
The feeling of it being hard is the feeling of your brain growing!*



**PRAISE FOR**

- EFFORT
- STRATEGIES
- PROGRESS
- HARD WORK
- PERSISTENCE
- RISING TO A CHALLENGE
- LEARNING FROM A MISTAKE

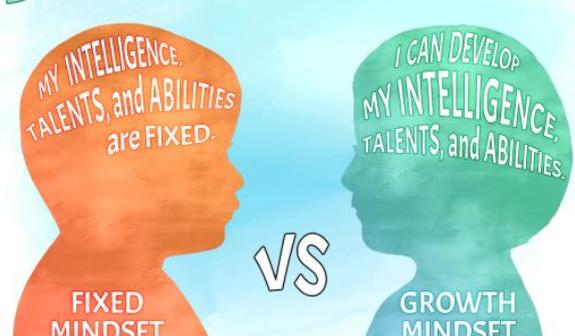
**NOT FOR**

- TALENT
- BEING SMART
- BORN GIFTED
- FIXED ABILITIES
- NOT MAKING MISTAKES

**THE POWER OF "YET" SAY**

- "YOU CAN'T DO IT YET."
- "YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET."
- "IF YOU LEARN AND PRACTICE, YOU WILL!"

# BRAINS can GROW



**VS**

**FIXED MINDSET** vs **GROWTH MINDSET**

**FAILURES AND MISTAKES = LEARNING**

**SAY**

- "MISTAKES HELP YOU IMPROVE."
- "YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES."
- "LET'S SEE WHAT OTHER STRATEGIES YOU CAN TRY."

**RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN MINDSET**

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR OWN THINKING AND THE MESSAGES YOU SEND WITH YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.



**ASK**

- "WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY THAT MADE YOU THINK HARD?"
- "WHAT NEW STRATEGIES DID YOU TRY?"
- "WHAT MISTAKE DID YOU MAKE THAT TAUGHT YOU SOMETHING?"
- "WHAT DID YOU TRY THAT WAS HARD TODAY?"

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At St Martin's, we aim for children to take ownership of their own learning right from the very start. We use language that tells them that intelligence is grown and not inherited and that they are capable of great things.

## Mistakes

We teach children that error, failure and mistakes are necessary for progress. In fact, if they are happening, they are proof that they are learning! Please encourage your child to have a go and don't be tempted to correct it for them. Teachers want to see what they have managed by themselves so that they can support their next steps. Perfectly completed work that has been over supported at home does not show teachers what children can do; rather what

the grown ups can. However, this doesn't mean that you can't help them at all. They will certainly learn from you as well. If you do need to support your child a lot, please let your teacher know so that they have an idea of what your child can manage.

### **Encouragement**

Praise children for their effort and persistence rather than for being 'clever'. Research shows that when we reward ability or intelligence children make less progress than when praise focuses on problem solving and overcoming barriers.

In each age phase, Google Classroom (and Tapestry in Reception) is used to deliver the best teaching your child needs. However, if you would like to do additional learning, or know more about how to support your child further, please read on.

## **Reception, year 1 and year 2 children**

- counting
- reading and writing
- learning to socialise with their classmates

The best way to help children aged 4 to 7 learn is to:

- sit with them as they work

- do active and practical things, rather than trying to make them sit and listen for long periods
- try to break down the work into shorter periods, based on how long they can concentrate
- take frequent breaks
- praise or reward them when they do well

## **Talking**

Talk with your child throughout the day and explain new words. For example, discuss the things you're doing and pick out words that might be new to them.

## **Reading together**

When you read with your child try to:

- express the emotion in the story
- give colour to the characters using voices, tone and pace
- discuss the things you're reading
- explain any new words and ask your child to say them out loud

You can make a story more interesting and help your child develop their understanding of a book by linking what you're reading to real life. For example, while reading about Cinderella going to the ball, talk about how a ball is similar to a birthday party.

Ask your child questions about what you're reading as you go. For example:

- ask some questions that only need a short answer, such as what colour something is, or the name of a character
- ask some questions that need a longer answer, such as how a character is feeling
- ask them to tell you what has happened in the story so far and what might happen next

For more ideas, see [10 top tips to encourage children to read](#).

Children at our school can also access Fiction Express. This fabulous site publishes a chapter of a book at a time. Members can vote on the direction the story takes before the writer writes the next installment. Your teacher will have a log-in:

<https://en.fictionexpress.com/>

## Phonics

Phonics is a method schools use to teach children how to read quickly and skilfully.

At St Martin's we use Read, Write Inc to teach phonics from Reception. Your teacher will direct you as to which level your child is currently at. Try to sit with your child and practise with them, following the advice you get from their school. Further resources can be found at

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

## Writing

Help your child to practise their writing. For younger children this might include forming letters and being familiar with pens and pencils, while for older children it could include writing stories.

Ask your child to write about their day-to-day experiences of being at home, or to write letters to send to family members.

## **Numbers**

Practise counting and numbers with your child. This does not always have to be a planned activity. For example, count things around the house while you're doing other things like cooking or cleaning.

Children will have a login for Times Table Rock Stars:  
<https://ttrockstars.com/> A site where children can practise their multiplication tables.

For older children learning sums, ask your school for help.

## **Year 3 to 6 children**

The best way to help children aged 7 to 11 learn is to:

- give them support and direction, but encourage them to do work independently too
- include active and practical things, rather than trying to make them sit and work for long periods
- try to break down the work into shorter periods, based on how long they can concentrate
- take frequent breaks
- praise or reward them when they do well

To check if they're learning try to:

- ask them questions as they go
- talk about things they learned

## **Reading**

Talk to your child about what they're reading. This will help them understand what they've read. Try to encourage them to read for fun, as well as reading for school.

Ask your child questions about what they're reading. For example:

- ask questions that make them think about the story, such as how a character is feeling
- ask them to tell you what has happened in the story so far

For more ideas, see [10 top tips to encourage children to read](#).

Children at our school can also access Fiction Express. This fabulous site publishes a chapter of a book at a time. Members can vote on the direction the story takes before the writer writes the next installment.

Your teacher will have a log-in:

<https://en.fictionexpress.com/>

## **Writing**

Try to help your child practise their writing. They may be set work by their school to do on a digital device, but using pen and paper as well will help them be ready for when they return to the classroom.

## Maths

Teachers will be setting carefully structured work on Google Classrooms daily following our Power Maths scheme and Oak National Academy.

Children will have a login for Times Table Rock Stars:  
<https://trockstars.com/> A site where children can practise their multiplication tables.

## Additional information for parents of year 6 children

Follow any advice given to you by school and continue helping your child to learn at home.

To prepare for going to secondary school this can be a good time for them to follow their own interests. For example, for:

- history, by visiting the [English Heritage](#) website to explore England's history
- geography, by researching other countries
- science, by finding out more about the human body on [BBC Bitesize](#)
- art, by trying the activities on [TATE Kids](#)

Finally, well done to all of us! Our community is amazing!

WE  
CAN DO  
HARD  
THINGS