

Class Dojo

Dear All,

The thing about Class Dojo is that, like the little girl with the curl in the middle of her forehead -when it is good, it is very, very good, but when it is bad it is horrid!

I think we have tipped over into some of it being 'horrid' and therefore we need a bit of a re-boot – particularly around the 'messaging'. We've all become equally guilty of using it as if it is WhatsApp and we know how addictive that can become, and the potential it has to have a negative impact on mental health and well-being! We all need some 'down time' from school!

Class Dojo is a really valuable tool for some things:

- Providing a 'window on the world' of school – where we can give you a 'glimpse' of what is happening during the day
- 'Quick reminders' of things that are coming up, equipment needed etc
- Celebrating what the children are doing well
- Giving 'quick' positive feedback to staff and children

This is what we want to keep using it for – and will continue to do so within and immediately around school hours.

However, Class Dojo is NOT a good tool for:

- Notifying absence, appointments or changes in collection arrangements
- Raising concerns
- Requesting meetings
- Conversations with teachers about individual children and their needs

All these things should be done via **email** to info@stmarysprimary.org and the class teacher – because teachers will not be monitoring messages during teaching hours! If it is urgent you will need to phone the school office. We know it will take a bit of time for everyone to get used to this!

I will be checking with every teacher that they:

- Have set 'quiet hours' for message notification between 5.30pm and 7am
- Have switched 'mute weekend notifications' on
- Are not responding to these messages within these 'quiet' hours

If you forget and send something via a Dojo message that should be in an email you will receive this message:

'Thank you for getting in touch. Please send your message to the school via email. Many thanks'

Most parents will probably not even notice the change because it is in line with what you are already doing – but it will do the teachers a lot of good.

I thank you for your support as we work together to ensure that we are all making the best use of our time for the good of our children.

Best wishes



Sarah Lewis

Confidently Me Belonging Together Challenged to Contribute

