



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Faith, Hope and Love

Monday 11th May 2020

Headteacher: Mrs Ali Silke
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Crannitch
Inclusion Lead: Miss Anne Browne



A message from your Headteacher, Mrs Silke:

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere condolences on behalf of the St Paul's team, to any of our families who have sadly suffered family bereavements during this lock down period. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

I know you will have seen the news that schools *may* reopen on 1 June to reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils if the government think it is safe to do so.

All schools are now waiting for further guidance and clarification from Southwark LA and the SDBE MAT, which will help us create an action plan for our phased reopening. I will share this with you as soon as possible so you know what the school's reopening will look like in practice.

It's a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that the St Paul's team are going to be doing everything we can to make sure we're ready to receive these year groups if it's safe for our school to reopen on 1st June.

However, we're also not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation best. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

In the meantime, the school is still be open **only** for invited children and the children of key workers. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we're not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

I'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your children learn from home. We'll need to keep going with this for a while yet, so please do continue to do what you can and stay in touch with us about how your children are doing. Your children's class teachers will continue to ring your child once a week to answer any questions they have.

Supermarket Vouchers for Children with Free School Meal (FSM) status

All children at St Paul's are entitled to receive a free school dinner, which is an initiative unique to Southwark LA.

This is totally different to having FSM status in line with the DFE criteria and it is only FSM children who are entitled to the supermarket vouchers.

We are very aware that a number of families' personal circumstances may have changed over the lockdown period and you may find that you are now eligible to apply for Free School Meals.

Please note that in order to access the government supermarket voucher scheme you need to be in receipt of one of the benefits listed below. You are not automatically entitled to this scheme.

Your child may be eligible to receive FSM's if they are in full-time education and your household is in receipt of any of the benefits shown below:

- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).
- Income Support.
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

If you do meet any of the above criteria and you have not yet registered for FSM status then please contact the school by emailing office@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk or calling 0207 703 4896 and speaking to Sandra Bettinelli or Donna Goodes who will arrange for you to complete the necessary paperwork.

St Paul's Foodbank

Once again huge thanks must go to Mr Roy, Miss Linda May and Mr Barry Knight who continue to work relentlessly together to facilitate a weekly food bank at St Paul's church on Tuesdays between 10 am and 2pm so that every family at St Pauls can receive a weekly bag of groceries and other essential items. They plan to continue fundraising until the children are able to return to school. Mrs Silke or Mrs Crannitch will be available at St Paul's foodbank every Tuesday between 10am and midday if you would like to speak with them.



Weekly learning

Weekly learning will continue to be set for all year groups by the class teachers on the school's website using the following link: <http://st-paulsprimaryschool.co.uk/home-learning-resources/> You can also access this page by going to the school's website page and clicking on the 'Learning' link along the top and selecting 'Home Learning Resources'. There are also regular updates on the website regarding online resources that provide useful and enjoyable learning opportunities for your children. So please do check regularly.

Please note there are still things we can continue to do together even though we are not in school:

- Every Thursday at 8pm join together as a community, on your doorstep or through the window to clap and cheer and bash your pots and pans for our NHS and all other keyworkers.
- Bishop Christopher invites us, as we hold onto hope whilst facing reality, to pray together for our nation and for all those affected by the Coronavirus. He encourages us to pause in whatever we are doing at 1pm each day and again at 7pm to say The Lord's Prayer.

Although we may be physically apart, these actions of hope in faith will keep us together.

Any further updates regarding the reopening of the school will be put on the school website as soon as we are advised to do so by the government. Please ensure you are checking this regularly. We really look forward to seeing you all back in school when it is safe to do so. So until then please stay safe and look out for your family, friends and neighbours during these challenging times.

A prayer for times of isolation

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39)

God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation,
apart from loved ones, distant from friends,
away from neighbours
thank you that there is nothing in all of creation,
not even coronavirus,
that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers,
looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far
all recognising our shared vulnerability,
each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift
of a full and healthy life.
Keep us all in your care.

Amen.

Love and prayers to you all,

The St Paul's Team.