



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Faith, Hope and Love

Friday 15th January 2021

Headteacher: Mrs Ali Silke

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Crannitch

Inclusion Lead: Mr Anthony Chavez

A Message From Your Headteacher, Mrs Silke

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope and pray that you and your families are keeping safe and well. Thank you so much for supporting your child/ren with their remote learning. We are delighted to see that approximately 70% of our children are engaging in the remote lessons but we will be aiming to improve the level of engagement week by week. It has certainly been a challenging start to the term, with the ever-changing advice from the DfE and I would like to thank you all for your patience and support during this difficult time. I know you will join me in thanking our teachers, teaching assistants and other support staff for all they are doing to ensure that every child's wellbeing and progress is not compromised by this 3rd period of lockdown.

Critical Worker and Invited Children Bubbles

We now have 4 bubbles in operation as follows:

- Nursery
- Reception
- Year 1-2
- Year 3-6

We have updated our risk assessment given the increased transmission rate of the new variant of Covid which means that places in the bubbles are limited. The DfE changed their guidance on Critical Worker provision on Monday 11th January as follows:

*Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.***

As you can see our children are working really hard in their bubbles as they access the remote learning in school.



Home Learning Packs Collection

Now that we have had to open the Nursery Bubble (given the change in initial guidance) we regret that we no longer have the staff capacity to deliver the learning packs except to families that are self-isolating due to Covid.

Please collect your child's pack every Friday from 9:30 onwards so that they have all they need for their remote learning the following week.

Devices for Home Learning and Internet Access

The DfE have now given us a small number of devices which have to be prioritised for children whose families are eligible for the Government Free School Meals (FSM) and who are in year 3 to 6. We also need to limit the allocation to 1 per household. The live lessons are all recorded so if you have more than one child, they can watch the recorded version if the laptop is being used by a sibling during their 'live' lessons. We are aware that family financial circumstances may have changed due to Covid so if you would like us to check if you are now eligible please call the school office with your National Insurance number and we can check for you.

Southwark are keen to know of any families who do not have internet access in their home. If you do NOT have internet access in your home please can you complete the short questionnaire through this link as soon as possible but also let the school office know https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSee4nx4pM6bwG_QrqQvix3TDdDdohGutaYuhr5PfaMWOX5tAQ/viewform

Breakfast Bags from School Food Matters

We are very grateful to the School Food Matters organisation for including us their breakfast bag scheme.

These contain enough food for a fortnight for each child and so you can collect your next bag on **Tuesday 26th January from 9am** and on every alternate Tuesday thereafter. You can also collect a small pack of food on Fridays when collecting your child's work pack. We will send you a text as a reminder as well as reminding you in the fortnightly newsletter.

Contact Details at St Paul's For Support with Remote Learning

If you have questions or need help with Microsoft Teams and home learning, please email teams@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk

If you have questions or need help with a child who has special needs or if you think your child needs additional academic or emotional support, please email senco@stpauls.southwark.sch.uk

Online safety while Children are learning remotely

During this period of remote learning please ensure your child or children are safe online. Some ways that you can make sure that they are safe is by monitoring what websites and games they are using. A lot of games now have chat functions within them that you may not necessarily be aware of so do google if you want to find this out.

The main thing is talking to your child about what they're up to online. Be a part of their online life and show an interest. Find out what sites they visit and what they love about them, if they know you understand they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems.

A useful website for parents is listed below:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

If you needed to report a serious concern online use the following link

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/CEOP-Reporting/>

Please note that all of this information and more is on the school website via the Key info tab>Safeguarding>Online Safety

<http://st-paulsprimaryschool.co.uk/online-safety/>

Illness and sickness during Lockdown and Remote Learning

Now that we are in the midst of winter months, it is the time of coughs, colds and sniffles. Please ensure if your child is too unwell to access their remote learning, even for one day, that you call the school to let us know. You can call at any time and leave a message with this information as all messages will be picked up by a member of the office staff when they are in. Please ensure you leave your child's name, class and the reason for them not being able to do their remote learning. When you leave the reason, please be specific i.e. they have a blocked nose and red eyes, please do not just say they are unwell. The reason for this is because we have to report to the DfE and the SDBE multi academy trust how many children are accessing their remote learning and the reasons why some children are not.

As in previous information sent out, if your child has any of the following 3 symptoms:

- High temperature (hot to touch)
- Continuous new cough (3 or 4 coughing episodes in a 24-hour period)
- Loss of smell or taste or a change in smell or taste

Please call the NHS helpline on 119 for advice. They will then advise if your child or anyone else needs to take a test. If this is the case please let the school know that are calling for advice and keep us updated. Thank you in advance.

A Prayer for The Start of a New Year

God of new beginnings,
Of hope and deliverance,
Dawn us with fresh opportunities,
Equip us for new tasks,
Fill us with eager longing,
Thrill us with fresh starts,
That with the past behind us
We may look to all that lies ahead
With faith in Jesus,
Help us to make wise choices so that we are healthy
and happy and support our children and families
as they embark on their remote education at this time.
Hope in you
And love for all.

Amen.

**Love and prayers to you all,
The St Paul's Team**