

# St. Paul's Catholic Primary School

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31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

## School Closure: Update 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Week 4 complete- well done!

I was delighted to receive 37 nominations for the Golden Book last week, which shows just how hard everyone is trying with their learning and how well you are supporting your children at home. Thank you.

In the week where the UK death toll reached a distressing 100,000 people it is hard to find many positives and sobering to think that we are living through such times. But these figures also serve as a stark reminder that we **MUST** continue to do what we can to break the chain of transmission and save the NHS from becoming over run.

BUT, there is hope.....

At a meeting of head teachers on Friday, we were reflecting on the Gospel reading of the day, which happened to be the parable of the mustard seed. The tiny speck of a seed that grows into a wonderful tree providing shelter for birds and other creatures. Jesus was of course likening the seed to the growth of the kingdom of heaven, but two things struck me:

- i) how fortunate we are to be people of faith in such difficult times
- ii) the similarity between that tiny seed and its remarkable growth and the current vaccine programme. A tiny vial of vaccine spreading out and eventually changing the lives of everyone.



The end of last week brought lots of vaccine news in our community: several of our parents accessing our critical worker spaces in school have had their vaccine; shielding members of staff are booked for theirs this week and even my Dad had the call for his.

So times are changing and WILL improve soon.



'Raising God's Children to Distinction'



## **School re-opening**

We now know that schools will not reopen until March 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest and an announcement is expected on 22<sup>nd</sup> February about how that will happen.

It is now only two weeks until half term. There will be NO remote learning during half term and school will be closed to all. March 8<sup>th</sup> is only 2 weeks after that.

If we keep going the chances are we will never have to do this again in our lifetimes. 4 more weeks on the scale of a lifetime is really not very long.

## **Parent Governor Elections**

You will have received by email the details of the parent governor elections. The closing date for voting is 4pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. If you haven't already voted please do:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JU5rfCLjsEqTVLApI5DMR3JcVpuBGqhBgIhYeF34NhBUQTdVS01ETEPIODdTU0hBNExIU1IFODhFNC4u>

## **Parental Feedback Survey**

Thank you to those of you who return the questionnaire.

We have taken on board your suggestions and working through how to implement the ones we can- in particular the help videos and help sheets for parents. 98% of the respondents are satisfied and very satisfied with the remote learning offer. That is great, but I know that doesn't mean it is easy.

Attached to this mailing are the suggestions that parents made in the question about tips and work arounds they have found which they are willing to share with other parents. I haven't include the one about hard liquor- but I hear you!

## **In School**

**The message is clear: IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME, YOU SHOULD.**

We are no longer accepting new applications for places in school. If we did, we would compromise the safety of all those in school and their families and we jeopardise the remote learning offer to those at home by having all staff tied up in school. There are waiting lists for most days in most bubbles now, so an application for a place doesn't guarantee a place once we have applied our priority criteria.

This situation will be reviewed on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## **At home**

You will receive another link for Golden Book nominations this week. All nominees will be read out in Zoom assembly on Friday at 3pm and the winners will receive their award in the post.

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Below is a table of the sorts of things we are doing regularly to support those of you learning at home and what you would have to do to access similar support.

Support available from school	What you need to do to get this help
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• exercise books</li><li>• stationary items</li><li>• reading books</li><li>• dictionary loans</li><li>• atlas loans</li><li>• food parcels</li><li>• Food Bank referrals</li><li>• Prayer devotions</li><li>• Technical support</li><li>• 30 minute tutorials for accessing Google Classroom and submitting work (by appointment only)</li><li>• Telephone calls</li><li>• Zoom meetings to support parents/children</li><li>• Recorded help videos</li></ul>	<h1>Just ask!</h1>

## Testing for staff

All staff in direct or indirect contact with children will start asymptomatic testing with lateral flow devices from today. We will be testing twice a week which is another important step in breaking the chain of transmission and protecting all in our community. It is likely that this testing will continue well beyond when children return. We do not yet have information about testing for pupils, except to say it WILL NOT happen on site as has been the case at secondary schools.



'Raising God's Children to Distinction'



**Children's' mental health week. 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/> for more information

Free resource videos from YogaBugs about mindfulness and mindful movement here:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8056777>

**password:** emotionsneedtobeexpressed

**Informing us if you are unwell**

If a member of your household tests positive for Covid, please, if at all possible let us know. The local authority has asked us to report this information. It will also help us to be able to direct any help or support you might need. It also means that the teachers will know not to expect work to be submitted until you are better.

**Remember:**

- The vaccine is coming- remember that mustard seed.
- Think of remote learning in 2 chunks of 2 weeks before we start to see schools reopen.
- If you need something, please ask.
- Keep safe

Best wishes to you all,

Mrs Sewell

Headteacher