

St. Paul's Catholic Primary School

Sundridge Park, Yate, South Gloucestershire. BS37 4EP

Tel: 01454 866790

Fax: 01454 866792



e-mail: admin@stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk

www.stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Sewell

24th January 2021

School Closure: Update 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

Week 3 of Lockdown 3 has been a challenge and I say that as a school leader, a member of the public and perhaps more importantly...as a working mum! Somehow the long dark days of winter make everything we are trying to balance more difficult. But at school on Friday, amongst the frosty grass, I spotted this...



A first bud of a single snowdrop up on the mound, near to the cage.

Such an important symbol of hope. This humble snowdrop sends us a clear message: it dares to poke its head through and ride out tough, cold times in the knowledge that warmer times are on the way.

We too have to stick out this difficult time in the hope that better times are ahead.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.”

Romans 13:15

I had the pleasure of joining a couple of classes last week for their live sessions and have to say I am so impressed with how our school community has adapted to remote learning. I feel it's important that you as parents, are the mainstays of making this learning happen on a daily basis and as such should get an opportunity to inform how we improve and build upon our current offer. I will be sending out a short questionnaire this week to capture this and ask for feedback. Please look out for it and complete one per child per year group.



‘Raising God’s Children to Distinction’



Parent Governor Nominations

We have received three nominations for the vacancy. The statements of the nominees will be circulated for your consideration and so that you can vote to elect a new parent Governor. Thank you to Kimberly Potter, James Cooke and Nicola Ray who have put themselves forward for the role.

Music Tuition

Lessons for existing musicians will move online shortly. You will be contacted by the individual tutors directly to organise the times and we look forward to hearing of your progress. However, we are not yet able to start lessons for beginners until such a time that face to face tuition can re-start.

Breakfast Club

We are not able to offer breakfast club without compromising the safety of the staff and children who are attending school. Refunds have been made for any bookings made for this term.

School Communications

I have seen many examples of letters to parents this week both in the media and in real life. I am shocked and saddened by threats of Educational Welfare Officers making visits to families not engaging with remote learning; demands made by schools about wearing uniform at home and the unrealistic expectations some have.

Whilst we all want to have high expectations for our children, we also have to have regard to individual circumstances. We know you are doing your best at home. We know some days will be great and other days you'll wish away the hours until bedtime! But that is ok. It is ok to prioritise your own mental health and the wellbeing of your children- THAT is the most important job of a parent.

If you need help or support or advice, please reach out to us. We can't solve everything but will certainly try. If your child is loved, cared for and happy, then you have done your job- please focus on that.

In School

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

Please be aware your class teacher will not be as easily available to you when they are teaching a group of children in school. They will let you know via Google Classroom the days they are in school. However, we have contingencies in place to ensure a member of staff will get back to you to support the learning that day.

A large number of staff are required to work in school across the week. We do not want to jeopardise the safety of those in school or the quality of remote learning by needing more staff in school. Therefore any further requests for places in school will be very difficult to accommodate.

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At home

Some great learning is going on at home. You should be proud of what you and your children are achieving. If you would like to nominate your child for inclusion in the "Golden Book" please respond to the form you will receive each Wednesday afternoon. We will be sharing these nominations with the whole school community.

Zoom Lessons/Meetings

Most classes have established a routine of live and recorded lessons. Whilst attendance is not compulsory at the live lessons, if you are having trouble accessing them please do let us know.

Contact from School

Class teachers have started to make their phone contact with you, some are also out delivering learning packs. Mrs Youell is also contacting children she usually works with. We have had positive feedback from this contact and feel it is important to maintain. Thank you for taking the calls and continuing to communicate with us. Staff will of course be in touch via the learning platforms daily anyway.

Food Parcels

We have a weekly scheme running in conjunction with FareShare where we are offering small food parcels to families who need them. If you would like to join the list to be alerted when the parcels are available (always on a Tuesday) please let us know.

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:

- Please prioritise your mental health and well being
- Please remember that snowdrop
- Please keep safe.
- Ask for help when you need it.



'Raising God's Children to Distinction'



Best wishes to you all,

Mrs Sewell

Headteacher