

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

7th February 2021

School Closure: Update 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

Goodbye January, hello February!

The phrase "walking the tightrope" is used in many ways and many situations, but as I was watching children at school tackling the tightrope we have installed between two trees on the front playground the other day, it struck me that this metaphor was really relevant to our everyday existence at the moment.

Each of the children approached the challenge in a slightly different way: some hanging on to the guide rope at chest height and edging along slowly, some with arms out to their side for balance, some going as quickly as possible and hoping for the best. But not a single one of them gave up, turned back or actually fell off! What they could have all done with though was something firm, steady and reliable to support them in the wobbliest moments. Even professional circus tightrope walkers have a balancing pole. So as we navigate another week full of challenge and anticipation, I would like to share with you something that might just provide you with access to something firm, steady and reliable...your faith.

This prayer was written as part of a home learning task in Year 2 this week. Rory has agreed that you can all share it:

Stand in faith
Even when you feel like you can't face another day
Stand in faith
Even when the tears want to flow from your eyes
Stand in faith
Knowing that our God will always provide
Stand in faith
Even when you feel that all hope is gone
Stand in faith
Knowing that He is always there for you to lean on
Stand in faith
Even when you feel like giving up
Stand in faith
Because He is there ... saying, "Just look up"



'Raising God's Children to Distinction'



Golden Book

Thank you for nominations again this week. Please look out for the form which will come to you at 9.00am on a Wednesday and close at midday on a Thursday each week. The quality and volume of work being produced is improving each and every week. You are doing so well, keep it up!

Google Classroom and Tapestry Protocols

In response to the parental and staff survey, attached to this email are the agreed protocols on what you can expect from us and what we expect from you during this period of remote learning.

Please be aware that children who are in school are completing the same work that is set on the Google Classroom or in Tapestry- they do not need to complete that at home as well. We are trying to make sure that children who have been in school on a specific day are removed from the assignment, so that they only see the tasks that need to be completed.

Parent Governor Elections- Results

Kimberley Potter has been appointed parent governor. Thank you for engaging in the process and completing your voting forms.

Pupil Feedback Survey

In the last two weeks we have been collecting feedback and views from parents and staff. This week we would like to hear from pupils. We have a good overview from the interaction staff are having with pupils, but would like to collate this information too. A link will be posted on the stream in Google Classroom and also sent out by text, I would appreciate it if you could assist your child in completing it.

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. 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 22nd February.

Please dress appropriately if attending school. We have had a severe weather warning for this week. It will be cold. We are still having to ventilate the building with doors and windows open at intervals so children need layers and warm clothes.

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At home

Devices

We have had some further devices donated from the community appeal organised by the Rotary. If you need an additional device at home. Or indeed mobile data SIM cards, please do get in touch and we will try and help.

Help, support and resources

Many people responded last week to the 'menu' of ways we are supporting families at the moment. As always, if you need something, just ask.

Free School Meal Vouchers

The local authority will be funding £15 per child of supermarket vouchers for all those families eligible to cover the half term period. We will issue the codes to you this week.

Testing for staff

Staff in school are testing twice a week, depending on when they are due to be in school. This is likely to be even more important in the light of the new variant.

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:

- Remember to use that "balance pole" as much as you need to
- If you need something, please ask.
- Keep safe

Best wishes to you all,

Mrs Sewell

Headteacher



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