



**St Paul's Catholic
Primary School**

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7th January, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well at this difficult time. It is hard to believe that we are in this position once again but we know that in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of Covid-19 cases locally and nationally and the intense pressure on the NHS, the Government need every lever at their disposal to reduce contacts outside households wherever possible.

Because our school is now open only for children of critical workers and those classed as vulnerable we are providing remote education for those children at home. You will know that we have a very useful and effective learning platform with Seesaw which we have been using since March 2020. Teachers are continuously developing ways that they can engage children effectively in their learning, providing access to quality resources as well as personalised feedback. Our aim is to set meaningful work, to provide frequent and clear explanations of new content, to check in and respond to pupils work and to monitor the progress that children are making.

To further enhance the impact of remote education, over the coming weeks we will be asking some year groups to begin to access Microsoft Teams to improve the opportunities teachers and pupils have for engagement and interaction. Your child's class teacher will send you details of how to do this shortly. We will begin with Year 5 and Year 6 this week and then lower year groups over the coming weeks. We do not currently intend to use Teams for our children in Early Years or Year 1.

Currently all teaching staff – teachers and teaching assistants – are working in school each day. We have agreed that each year group will continue to be taught by their class teacher. Children who are able to access school provision will not be mixed with other year groups. This means that all teaching staff are currently managing both face to face teaching in school as well as remote education for our children who are learning from home. Teaching staff are working incredibly hard to ensure that the curriculum being offered is mirrored, whether children are learning at home or at school.

Class teachers will continue to communicate with you about your child's learning. Tomorrow, newsletters will be emailed and if your child's teacher needs you to pop up to school to collect some additional resources, they will be in touch. It is our absolute ambition that your child will be taught extremely well, whether at home or at school.

We understand the many challenges that the current lockdown arrangements place and this is why we are aiming to meet the needs of all children and family circumstances. It is therefore essential that if your child is learning at home they have the very best opportunity to succeed. Currently some children at home have not yet accessed any remote education. We cannot allow children to miss this opportunity to learn so we need to remove all the barriers to learning that we can. We have devices in school that can be loaned and there is access to free data if this is what is needed. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help. We do expect your child to be learning.

For children currently attending school – you should wear your PE uniform on your usual PE days. And for parents – Please DO NOT USE MILL LANE TO PARK WHILST DROPPING OFF OR COLLECTING YOUR CHILD. There is adequate parking space to use on Thames Road or the surrounding roads.

Thank you once again for your support; please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss anything further and be assured of my best attention at all times.

Yours sincerely,



Sheena Sinclair
Head Teacher

