



## Ss Peter & Paul's Catholic Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs Louise Myerscough

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents, Families and Friends of Ss Peter & Paul's,

As we approach the end of this half term and begin the season of Lent, a derivative of the word Lenten, meaning springtime – the sign of lengthening days, new life and hope, I want to thank you all for your support through these difficult times. As we move forward during this season we will look at Lent as a time to repair, remember and restore – key messages during this pandemic.

### **School Reopening**

School will continue to be open for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable children when we return to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. As the government have stated whole school reopening will not happen before Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and we will be given two weeks notice. As soon as I have any further information I will let you know.

### **Covid Testing**

The majority of staff in school now have the lateral flow tests twice weekly as a further measure to try and keep children and each other safe.

### **Children's Mental Health**

We understand that some children are having difficulties with anxiety around Covid-19 and lockdown. On our website [www.ss-peterandpauls.co.uk](http://www.ss-peterandpauls.co.uk) we have a page called Covid-19 documents. In here there is a book called "Coronavirus – a book for children" which can be viewed and a Mental Health and Well-being pack with tips and exercises that you can use if you feel it would be helpful.



## Remote Learning

Firstly, thank you to the children, parents and staff who have worked hard on using our online learning platforms. I know some people have had issues and when they have spoken to myself or the teachers we have found ways to support learning through additional meetings, paper packs, talking through work.

It does need to be noted that the small number of families who have not accessed Class Dojo or Evidence Me or contacted the school to make alternative arrangements are now marked absent and the children will be classed as **missing from education**. This means that after half term some families will have phone calls or visits from our **Education Welfare Officer**. We will always try to support you in whatever way we can but if you are not engaging in work set then we need to ensure that action is taken to ensure quality education for all children. This does not mean children who have missed odd days or have been sick or have had issues beyond their control.

Moving forward when children are sending work back the best way to do this is on a regular basis so that the work can be marked and feedback for improvement given as it would be in school. If work is more than a week old it is difficult for the teacher to mark and have an impact as the lessons have moved on. Thank you for your continued support in this area.

## Remote Learning Questionnaire

Again, thank you to all of you who took the time to fill this in. The response was overwhelmingly positive. We have been able to action some points raised such as reintroducing "Learner of the Week," increased Zoom calls to check on the welfare of children (there was a mixed response to the effectiveness of Zoom calls and some children being upset or reluctant to join them so we have decided to keep these more informal particularly for younger children), teachers creating videos or voice overs on PowerPoints to explain points and activities, paper packs issued where there are specific needs and devices provided for families who request them.

## Online Bullying

We have received some reports of children making inappropriate remarks and targeting other children online. We will always talk about this in school but as it is happening at home I would just like to remind you about checking what your children are sending and receiving and apply parental controls to devices where necessary. Again, we have advice in the policy section of our website.



## World Book Day

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March it will be World Book Day. We would still like to celebrate this so the children who are in school can come in costumes if they wish and all classes will have a Zoom parade so those at home can dress up too! Some of the staff will post videos of themselves reading stories in “The Masked Story-Teller” and the children will have to guess who they are. All activities set on that day will also be book based.

## Collective Worship

From the week we return after half term there will be a weekly Collective Worship posted on Class Dojo with a focus on Lent.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all of our school community who have worked together at this time. Hopefully, with testing, vaccines and falling Covid numbers we can return to normality soon. Take care and have a lovely half term and if you need to contact me I will be available at [myerscoughl@stspp.org.uk](mailto:myerscoughl@stspp.org.uk).

Stay safe,

Yours,

*L. Myerscough*

L. Myerscough

