



SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Healthy Mind & Body – Dance with Nicole

This week daily dance diary videos have been posted for children to join in with. I hope your children have been watching, joining in and enjoying this. The videos are in the class folders of work children need to access every day. We hope to get as many children from school to send a clip of them joining in as possible so that we can create one big SS Peter and Paul dance video that brings us together in a creative way. What an achievement that would be and something special to look back on in the future – get involved if you can, even if this is not something your child/ren would usually do, it will lift the mood and keep our children feeling positive. I am not a dancer but I have really enjoyed joining in each day, it makes me smile! Parents and family feel free to join in too as we are making memories for them in difficult times 😊.

Our website is constantly being updated with advice for families about keeping children calm, positive and happy in these very unusual times. Look at the wellbeing section for specific advice and call us at school if we can offer support in any way.

Coming soon – Mr Griffiths will lead PE sessions for you to join in with at home.

Returning to school

You will have heard the reopening of schools being discussed in news bulletins. At present we remain unaware of a return to school date. We are expecting that a partial reopening will be announced.

Currently, we have no idea how they will identify the classes to return to school. The rationale behind a partial reopening is around maintaining achievable social distancing measures and minimising risks to children and school staff. You may need to be prepared that if you have more than one child in school, one may be returning whilst the others are not and you should begin to discuss planning for such an eventuality. As soon as we have any information we will communicate this with you.

In order to prepare for a return to school, it is important that you maintain a good routine at home. Ensuring early nights during the week and a good hand-washing regime is in place will support your child with returning to school. This, along with supporting them with their home learning.

School Reports

Each year class teachers prepare a written report about progress and achievements. This year, when your child returns to school I will be asking all staff to concentrate on settling children back in, helping them to follow new and safe routines and to prepare lessons and safe activities that can be



enjoyed when school reopens. Because of this, class teachers are being asked to write an in year report for each child while school is still closed to the majority of pupils. This report will not take the usual format but will be an important record of what they have accomplished to date. All children will receive a report.

As a school, we will not be focusing on assessment or identifying gaps until children are feeling safe, secure and confident back at school. Our skilled team of teachers are well placed to focus on learning at the right time. In the meantime, daily learning at home, regular reading, daily exercise will be an enormous help to them. Families who speak a different language at home, remember how much it will help your child to speak and write in English daily. Thank you 😊

To our year 6 pupils, we are working with your secondary schools to share information that will help them prepare well for your start next year. Your secondary school will be in touch with updated information about visits and transition arrangements so try not to worry; this is being planned for you in the background.

Parental Feedback

I recognise that parent opinion will vary. For the parents who are concerned that not enough work is being set each day I seek to reassure you. Our planning and delivery during this school closure is based on case studies of best practice and what we, as professionals, think our pupils will need and engage with. A wealth of additional resources exist for any days you choose to do a little extra. Conversely, to parents worried that work set is too much, our advice remains consistent. Encouraging children to do daily learning is important, how much you choose or manage to do it beyond our control. Praise your child for all their efforts. Access other year group work if more appropriate to their learning level. The intention is not to put any families under additional pressure, each will access as they see fit for their child. Staff will advise and support where we can so do contact us at school if you are worried.

Finally, thank you to all who have sent their best wishes. We hope that you all remain safe and we thank you for doing an amazing job – whether you are a critical key worker and or a ‘home-tutor’! I hope that you have all learned something new from your children that you didn’t know before. We miss them all and look forward to welcoming them back when it is the right time to do so. In the meantime, I hope that you can cherish the slower pace of life whilst we have it.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Byrne
Principal

