

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well done everyone! We have made to the end of this first week of this new term. We certainly did not expect it to look like this did we? Can I begin by once again thanking you all for the kind messages and support you give to the staff team.

Contrary to popular media headlines school is not closed. We are open every day and every member of staff is currently attending school daily. We do not get the Government guidance any earlier than you. At 8pm on Monday evening I had no idea that our Prime Minister was going to announce the partial closing of schools to all pupils. I wish I was important enough to get 'inside information' but we don't. Just yesterday another 61 page guideline document was released for schools to follow from Tuesday!

We have started our remote learning with children at school and at home. **The difference in this lockdown is an expectation that children complete at least three hours of work every day.** Last time this was not legislation. I can only begin to imagine the upheaval this has created in every one of our family homes but urge you to support the children's learning by participating every day.

Earlier in the week, I informed you that teachers would deliver 'live lessons' every day in the morning. A reminder that the times are Year 5 & 6 9am, Years 3& 4 9.30am, Years 1 & 2 10.00am and finally for EYFS 10.30am. Please make every effort to make sure that children are ready for these sessions. These will be invaluable from a mental health point of view to keep our class communities connected on a daily basis. Children in school will also be attending.

Whilst I was puzzled by the comments from the Education Minister on Wednesday when he said parents should get in touch with OFSTED if they are not happy with the remote learning offer I understand the national agenda. In the last lockdown we offered a raft of learning opportunities that were gratefully received by most families. We intend to build on this strong position by using Google Classrooms to provide a robust and consistent approach to remote learning. (apparently you can get Google Classroom on your PS4 and X-Box!!) If you are struggling please let the school know. The first point of contact should be the class teacher. Alternatively email the school at enquiries@stpaulinus.npcat.org.uk

Please can I ask you to bear in mind the following:

- Try not to be too hard on yourself, the children or even the school. No one is to blame for the situation we are in. The most important outcome is survival of the situation we are in both physically and mentally as we are in a global pandemic.
- Most of the children caught up what they missed last time, so if gaps occur we will help them again.
- There is more to child development than academic attainment.

These statements are not an excuse for us not to try and keep helping the children learn or to complete the work over the next few weeks. I feel it is important to remember the balance we are all trying to achieve. The remote learning is there to support you and your children to learn at home whilst we get the virus under control.

Working together to be the best we can

Headteacher: Mr S Geaves

St Paulinus Catholic Primary School, The Avenue, Guisborough, Redcar and Cleveland, TS14 8DN

Tel: 01287 637978 | Email: enquiries@stpaulinus.npcat.org.uk | Website: stpaulinus.npcat.org.uk

Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust





There does seem to be a national picture of more children attending school during this lockdown when compared to the last lockdown. This is something I have noticed at St Paulinus with over 65 children attending school some days.

As stated in Government guidance, during this period of national lockdown, schools and colleges should only allow vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend and we are happy to do what we can to support you if you need to go to work to support the country's fight to tackle coronavirus.

The Government has stated that schools have not suddenly become unsafe but limiting the number of children and students who attend them is essential to curb the escalating cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the country and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed.

As has always been the case throughout the fight against COVID, the safety of our pupils and staff is our first priority and we feel that we have always done, and continue to do, everything possible to prevent the spread and reduce transmission between homes and families. The number of pupils currently attending school is concerning and we would ask you to be responsible and, if it is at all possible, to try and find an alternative that would be safer for yourself and your child.

Please also consider the following in line with Government advice:

- Can you work from home?
- Can you find alternative times to work outside of the school day?
- Do you have other family members who are not in a vulnerable category and can care for your child which will support social distancing for children?
- Do you need school childcare everyday? Only use the provision when you really need to.

One difference I have noted is that last time we were urged to stay at home wherever possible this time we have been instructed. If any children develop COVID symptoms they must still be tested and if positive you must let the school know.

I am delighted that both the Breakfast and After School Club are running. Please book using the usual methods. We are also still providing hot lunches every day for children if you want them to have one. Please book these through Parent Pay.

In the meantime I once again thank you for your patience and understanding. We are all learning together at the moment and together let love, courage and trust guide us.

Enjoy the weekend and stay safe.

Mr Geaves

Working together to be the best we can

Headteacher: Mr S Geaves

St Paulinus Catholic Primary School, The Avenue, Guisborough, Redcar and Cleveland, TS14 8DN

Tel: 01287 637978 | Email: enquiries@stpaulinus.npcat.org.uk | Website: stpaulinus.npcat.org.uk

Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust