



ST PAULINUS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to School on Monday 8th March. Earlier this week, we sent out three sets of information regarding details and procedures that need to be put in place in order for the smooth reopening of School next week. These three pieces of information are:

- March 8th Opening Letter (sent out 2nd March).
- Staggered start and finish time groupings (sent out 3rd March).
- PE Days for each year group (sent out 4th March).

If you have not had chance to read these pieces of information, please take time to do so. It is really important that everyone follows the safety measures and routines, which we have put in place, that are necessary for everyone in our School family to stay safe. We are here for you, should you have any queries or concerns, and encourage you to get in touch via telephone or email, should you wish to speak to a member of staff.

Thank You

The past eight weeks have been some of the toughest that many of our staff and families have ever experienced. The anxieties of the present and uncertainty of the future have been testing for everyone. However, individually, we have conquered many battles and together we have, and will continue to, grow stronger. We would like to thank all of our families for working with us and contributing towards the success of our Remote Learning. Our pupils are at the heart of what we do, and the efforts that have been made towards putting them first has been amazing. Each and every pupil has made us proud. We cannot wait to see them next week and thank them in person. Our staff have shown commitment and dedication with the duties that they have undertaken since the start of the latest lockdown. We have much to be thankful for and we know that we will continue to strive for the best.

Personal Social Health Education (PSHE)

In a recent Staff Meeting, Mr Geaves shared with the teachers a fabulous resource, which we will be using in School once the pupils return next week. Jigsaw is a whole-School online resource which aims to prepare children for life; helping them to really know and value who they are and understand how they relate to other people in our ever-changing world. In our classes, the children will explore two themes over the forthcoming week. These themes are: 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference (including anti-bullying)'. Lessons will involve listening to stories, songs, sharing ideas as a class and in small groups. We hope that by giving our pupils the opportunity to explore their feelings and talk about issues which affect them and their peers, we will be able to equip them with the skills to have a successful life, and navigate through these difficult times in which we all face.

World Book Day 2021

This year's World Book Day was a huge success. Thank you to all of our pupils and families for the efforts that went into making this year's theme, 'Read to Relax', a memorable occasion. If you haven't had chance to

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Executive Headteacher: Mr S Geaves Head of School: Mrs R Bircham

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watch the varied stories recorded by our teachers for our pupils, then please click on this link to take you to our YouTube channel where you can find the stories:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFYztLFMp8z9jk4znRKujMA/videos>

At St Paulinus, we always have a theme when celebrating World Book Day. We love reading so much that we enjoy to share the benefits of reading with our pupils and families. This year, our theme was 'Read to Relax'. It was chosen specifically due to the anxieties that we all face during this global pandemic. During the three World Book Day assemblies, Mrs Bircham shared three benefits of reading as a way to relax:

- Calming – It has been discovered that just 30 minutes of reading lowers blood pressure, heart rate and feelings of distress.
- Gets you ready for a good night's sleep – reading or being read to at bedtime helps you to switch off and have a really good rest. By switching your thoughts to an imaginary place, you are more likely to fall to sleep quicker and happier.
- It can stop you from feeling down– reading regularly, can reduce and help to manage long term feelings of depression.

Of course, reading goes beyond World Book Day and in School, we believe in the power of Reading for Pleasure and encourage reading as a hobby for all to enjoy.

School Council Drawing Competition

Thank you to all pupils who have submitted a drawing for our School Council drawing and colouring competition. There is a different theme for each year group and details can be found on your child's Google Classroom. The closing date for entries is on Monday 8th March 2021. The Year six School Council members will be judging the entries next week, with winners being announced during Friday's Certificate Assembly. The School Council are excited to be awarding certificates and prizes to the winners and runners up.

PTFA Update

The PTFA would like to share an update with you all:

This term we won't be able to hold the usual Easter Fair but we are planning an Easter raffle! Tickets will be sold online as we did at Christmas. However, at this stage we are looking for prizes...If you're able to donate a prize that would be wonderful.... we are looking for Easter Eggs/wine/vouchers/gifts that would be suitable.... Or if you know of a company that would be willing to participate please send us the details. You can always contact the PTFA through the PTFA Facebook page or by emailing stpaulinusptfa@gmail.com



Thank you for your continued support
St Paulinus PTFA

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Easter Celebrations in School

We would like to give you advance notice of some of our fabulous Easter traditions which we hope will continue in School this year. Despite not being able to hold our traditional Easter Fair, we are looking forward to welcoming back Egg Day as well as creating Easter crafts. We would like to sell these crafts at a 'virtual' Easter Fair, similar to the one which we held at Christmas. In the final weeks of the half term, leading up to Holy Week, classes will be sharing special Lent Collective Worship with families. More details regarding these activities and events will be shared with you all over the forthcoming weeks.

And, finally...

As we approach the Third Sunday of Lent, may we remind you about some wonderful resources which Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust have put together to help us all journey through this time to prepare for Easter. The weekly family prayer resource can be found by clicking on the link:

<https://npcat.org.uk/family-prayer/>

This Sunday's Gospel reading is John 2:13-25. In this passage, we are presented with a stark contrast of the image of Jesus as being meek and mild. Instead, we see Jesus outraged at the activities which are taking place in his Father's house, the temple. Jesus' cleansing or clearing of the temple, is a signpost pointing towards the new Temple, Jesus himself. We too, are presented as temples because God's Holy Spirit lives in us (1 Corinthians 3:16). This passage reminds us that, at times, we too need to reflect on our own actions and give ourselves and others the opportunity to start again. May we end with a piece of reflection:

Lord Jesus, give me the grace to turn to you in times of need so that I may begin a fresh and start over once more.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to the safe return of our pupils and families. Remember we are here for you if you need us.

Love and best wishes,

Mr Geaves
Executive Head

Mrs Bircham
Head of School

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