



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus.

(cf John 8:12)



Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian/ Carer,

Well what a turn around! On Sunday we were all told that schools would be opening as normal on Monday and that children can return, to then suddenly at 8pm on Monday night being told we are going into a National Lockdown and only children of Critical workers and vulnerable children would be attending school until at least February half term. All the staff returned on Monday 4th for INSET excited to see the children when term began on Tuesday morning, everything was ready for them and so to say the announcement was a shock is an understatement! Still we jumped into action, organising the opening of school on Tuesday despite many other schools choosing to stay closed for another day because we wanted to do the best for our families and our children. I'd like to thank all the staff that have stayed up past midnight for the last few days, those that have come in early and everyone who has worked so hard to get things in place for our families who work in roles that are Critical to the fight against COVID and for our vulnerable children. I particularly want to thank the office staff in this effort. This was a mammoth task and the dedication of the St Paulinus staff to our community is commendable.

I am sure, like me, many of you have been watching the news or reading tweets or posts etc about the reaction to this Lockdown. It is safe to say, we all have an opinion. Whatever your thoughts are on the topic (whether they be relief that action has been taken, anger that we are isolating again, stress or anxiety at the thought of trying to educate your children while you yourself are trying to work or stress and anxiety at trying to educate your child when you are not a teacher or perhaps are not confident using technology) it is still important that we remember **to be kind and be patient.** All the staff at school, including the office staff, are doing their best for you and for your children, please remember this when you contact school either by phone or by email.

In follow up to the above, we were really disappointed to see the message that was shared from the Secretary of State and would like to remind parents that they can also contact OfSTED to share good news and good things as well about the school. It is so important that Schools are supported at this time as we try to navigate these new waters, in the same way we try to support you. As a school we have gone above and beyond in providing remote learning. There are many options for parents to choose from depending on their individual circumstances. There is online learning through Google classroom, use of Apps through bug club, TT rockstars and purple mash and we have printed paper packs for those who prefer not to use technology that can be collected. Everything is pre-recorded so that families can choose when they access online resources so that it can be worked around working hours or the sharing of devices. Staff are working so hard to ensure that we are providing a good offer and that it meets OfSTED expectations that it can feel soul destroying when their efforts are not recognised. So I would formally like to thank all staff for the hard work and dedication they are putting into this and also thank Miss Duarte who is working tirelessly to resolve any remote learning issues that are arising. The staff have appreciated all of you who have got in touch to thank them for their efforts so far so thank you to you as well.

Lastly, I want to make the Government message clear. **It is safer for your child to be at home rather than in school** because they are having contact with less people. This means that they are less likely to pick up and transmit the virus to each other or other members of your family. **The message is clear, wherever possible – keep your child at home.**

'An outstanding school, which is deeply committed to the Catholic mission... this school inspires all within this faith community to live life to the full.' Ofsted 2017

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I will end by saying that we continue to wish all of our families and staff good health over the coming weeks and months and we hope that through all of our efforts we will be able to minimise the impact of this new variant in our community and across Kirklees.

This Lockdown will be tough on many of us, but be assured that the St Paulinus team are all doing our best to help both you and your children through it. We are all in this together and we sincerely hope that all our families make it through this with good health and happiness. If you need any nurture support while you are at home, please contact nurture@stpaulinus.org and someone will get back to you.

God Bless,

Miss Hayes
(Headteacher)