



St. Paul's
C.E. Primary School
Learning Together

12th January 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing with various updates and information about the upcoming term. We have settled well into the new term and after the snow last week we are all enjoying a milder start to the year. It's great that the pupils are able to be outside in the sunshine at break and lunchtimes and we are all looking forward to them being able to use our new outdoor play equipment.

I'm sure you will have seen the development of our outside spaces with the outdoor gym, storytelling area and trim trail all beginning to take shape. We ask for your continued support over the coming days with regard to keeping your children safe and away from the equipment until the final safety checks have been conducted.

Updates

We have made the decision to arrange our parent/ teacher consultations at the end of the Spring term in the hope that they will be 'face to face' at that point in the year. We are hoping that this will be an opportunity to come in to school, meet the teachers and view some of your child's work. The only exception to this will be for the year 6 pupils' maths consultations. Mrs Timms will be in touch via telephone with year 6 parents soon to discuss progress and targets for this subject, in preparation for the KS2 SATS in May.

Also, as we have new teaching staff in years three and four, parents of children in these year groups are invited to contact the school office anytime to arrange a five minute telephone conversation with the class teacher, if they wish to do so. Longer face to face conversations for parents of children in these year groups will be arranged with the whole school consultations at the end of the term. A big thankyou to all of our pupils for helping the new staff to feel welcome.

As the new term starts, we are saying goodbye to Miss Charles. On behalf of the pupils and staff, I would like to thank her for her commitment and hard work to the school community over the last seven years and wish her well in the future.

Awards in school

I would like to share further information about our reward systems in school. '**Values led**' awards are given to pupils at celebration assembly on a Friday. Our core values, which were chosen by your children, are love, courage, community, forgiveness, honesty, determination and respect. These are also the names of our school families and each one is represented by a colour of the rainbow. One of our values is chosen as the focus of our learning and behaviour each week and teaching staff choose two pupils in each class that have shown this value in their learning. These pupils are given a coloured certificate that is taken home as a reminder of how they are showing that value in their work in school. Other rewards include Dojo's and our behaviour rainbows; each class uses their own system to reward pupils in these ways.

Next week, each pupil is going to receive a 'values passport'. These booklets are where your child will record their successes and commitment to our school values. There are special pages for each of our core values and each page will have a Bible quote and a symbol that link to the value. Your child will collect 'staff stamps' for demonstrating each value through school life and through their learning and classes with the most stamps at the end of the week will get a special mention in celebration assembly. We hope that our pupils will travel far on their St Paul's 'values journey' and now need your help to get them started. We would like our pupils and their families to be involved in choosing the Bible references that link to our values and will be able to give our pupils their first 'community stamps' in their passport for sharing their ideas with us.

Head teacher: Mrs C Palmer

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What do we need to do?

We will send a sheet home for you and your child to complete together with ideas for Bible quotes. The sheet will then need to be brought back into school and handed in to your child's class teacher by Tuesday 18th January.

Decisions will then be made about which of the quotes will be used in school to exemplify our school values. Every child that returns a completed sheet will receive ten stamps on their 'community' page in their values passport. An example for the value of love is below.

Love: ... Corinthians 16:14 *Let all that you do be done in love.*

Over the coming weeks, we will also be working on our 'whole school vision' and how that translates into our everyday practice. We will be asking pupils and our families to contribute to this process to ensure that our 'vision in action' reflects the views of the wider school community.

Educational visits, visitors in school and residentials

As part of our commitment to developing our curriculum, we have plans to broaden the range of experiences that our pupils have at St Paul's. Educational visits, visitors in school and residentials, combined with an ambitious and engaging curriculum are integral to this. With this in mind, over the next week, we will be sending details of the visits that your child's class will be taking part in for this academic year. We are planning to introduce residential visits in years four, five and six this year with the possibility of extending this to year three from September onwards. With regard to the cost of these trips, we are able to offer flexible payment options for families that need it so please get in touch with Miss Moore if this is something you wish to discuss further. Payment plans will be set up via Parent pay to make the process as straightforward as possible.

Staying safe

In order to ensure that the school environment continues to be as safe as it possibly can be, we will be continuing with the enhanced cleaning schedule that has been in place since the start of the pandemic. In addition to this, hand sanitiser is available in every room and children and staff are expected to use this regularly. Ventilation is maximised in each classroom with windows being open where possible. Our risk assessments are also regularly reviewed to ensure that we make any necessary adjustments and we monitor any cases that are reported to us very carefully; responding appropriately, in a timely way.

Please find below the most up to date information we have from the government about testing and isolation periods.

Changes to Isolation

On 22nd December, the government changed the time period of isolation from 10 days to 7 days, providing the person who tested positive returns 2 negative lateral flow tests from day 6.

- A child or staff member can return to school once they have 2 consecutive negative lateral flow tests (from day 6 of when their isolation period began).
- The tests must be taken 24 hours apart (so early morning is advised)

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- If the lateral flow test taken on day 6 and on day 7 are both negative - the child or adult can return to school on day 7.
- If the lateral flow test on day 6 is still positive, the child or adult must continue to isolate and carry out another lateral flow test the next day (day 7). If this test is negative, they must do another test 24 hours later (day 8). If both these tests are negative the child or adult can return to school.
- Children and adults can return to school on or after day 7 once they receive 2 consecutive lateral flow tests (from day 6, 24 hours apart) or after the 10 days isolation - whichever is sooner.

Changes to Testing From Tuesday 11th January

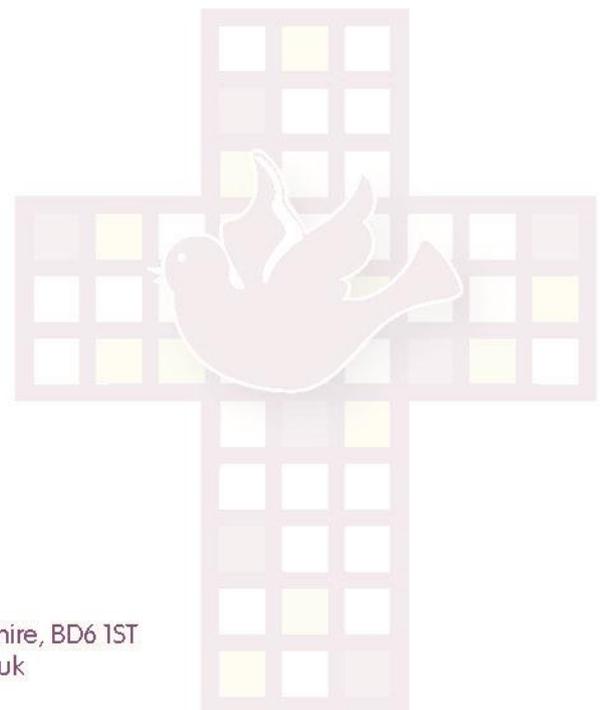
Anyone who tests positive on a lateral flow test does not have to have a confirmatory PCR test if they do not have any symptoms. Day 0 of their isolation period is counted as the day the positive lateral flow test was taken.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmatory-pcr-tests-to-be-temporarily-suspended-for-positive-lateral-flow-test-results>

We hope that the new term runs smoothly and with minimum disruption due to Covid. We thank you again for your continued support during these challenging times and move forwards together as a school community. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via the school office if we can help you and your family in any way.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs C Palmer



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