



28th January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well. I am writing with important updates around remote learning, lateral flow testing and staffing at St Paul's.

Remote Learning

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, that schools will not be able to reopen to all pupils immediately after February half term, it is even more important that the remote learning that our pupils access is of high quality, and that parents are supported to facilitate this learning over the coming weeks.

For those children who are currently learning from home, we have continued to provide essential devices to ensure that it is possible for them to engage in their learning every day. School staff are on hand daily to support the smooth running of this ongoing process. Pupils have made a great start in accessing their learning from home and parents have supported them really well, where needed.

Our remote learning offer is evolving all the time and we are constantly reviewing our systems of feeding back to our pupils to ensure that learning opportunities are maximised. I would like to thank those of you that have offered feedback to our staff; it has given us insight into the real-life situations that our families are facing and enabled us to look closely at our provision and make adjustments. We will be asking for more in-depth opinions shortly so that we can continue to evaluate the provision and provide bespoke learning to each of our pupils.

At St Paul's we understand that it is an exceptionally difficult time for lots of families at the moment, and that home learning is new to all of us, but we are here to help and there is no problem that we can't solve when we work together! With that in mind, we have made some small changes to our working practices on Class Dojo and would like to share how we can all move forward with our current practice:

- 'Steps to Success'
Our class teachers are working hard to respond to work that is submitted by our pupils and we have been thinking carefully about how we can make this process even more efficient and effective. Research tells us that in order to maximise remote learning it is really important that pupils have opportunities to reflect on their own work, and that an element of self-assessment is really useful to secure progress. Pupils also need to be really clear about what the expectations are and

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what success looks like for each task that they complete. With these things in mind, the teachers will be displaying and explaining tasks and providing clear 'Steps to Success'. Pupils will be able to check their understanding against the 'steps' and they will provide a valuable framework for this process. Parents of our younger pupils will also be able to see clearly what the components of the task are, whether their child has achieved each part and what further support might be needed.

- Assessment of Bronze, Silver or Gold

Moving forwards with our remote learning, each piece of work submitted will be responded to by the teacher and given an assessment of Bronze, Silver or Gold. This will make it really clear to our pupils if there is further work to be completed for each task. Gold will mean that pupils have completely achieved the learning objective and in some cases a next step will be provided to challenge the pupil further. Silver will suggest that children have partly achieved the learning objective and the response to this will be a 'now' next step to progress the learning further. A Bronze assessment will mean that the child will need to be re-directed to the task explanation and may need further support to help with understanding. Therefore, please be mindful that your child may be asked to respond to a single task on more than one occasion to make improvements and our staff will be able to help your child with this.

- Submitting work online

In order for teachers to be able to respond appropriately and offer timely feedback it is extremely important that the work is submitted during the usual school working hours. Therefore, please encourage your child to submit work to their teachers between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm, wherever possible. We understand that families are sharing devices, and may not be able to do all of the work early in the day, but if Maths and English tasks are prioritised, and completed first, it will really support your child's learning further, particularly in the core subjects.

- Weekly Wednesday Challenge

Please be reminded that our Wednesday Challenges are uploaded onto our website for pupils to complete weekly as part of their assigned work. They can be completed throughout the week. The tasks and activities promote the idea of 'coming away' from screens, to provide a welcome break from online learning. Winners are announced by Mrs Timms on a Wednesday and a token of achievement is posted out to our pupils for them to receive at home. These

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learning experiences are also accessed by pupils in school and these children are eligible for the prizes too!

Finally I just wanted to offer a couple of tips when using Class Dojo; your child will need to click 'hand in' so that their piece is no longer a draft and the work will need to be uploaded to the **portfolio section**, not replied to in the 'messages' section (unless it is a Wednesday Challenge for Mrs Timms). Also, if your child is uploading a photograph of written work please can parents check that the image is really clear, so that the teachers can read the work easily. If you feel that it would benefit your child to have paper to write on instead of typing answers then you are more than welcome to pick up a new exercise book from the school office at your convenience.

Lateral flow testing at St Paul's

Lateral flow (LF) tests are one of the new tools being used to help us detect and fight COVID-19. From tomorrow, staff at St Paul's will have the option of taking regular LF tests to help identify those who may be positive for COVID-19 and are infectious, yet asymptomatic. Between one in four and one in three people who have coronavirus never show any symptoms, but that does not mean they are not infectious. These devices can help identify people who have high levels of the virus, but do not have symptoms, and would not otherwise be coming forward for a test.

If a member of staff tests positive from the LF test, then we will identify any close contacts of that person and inform parents as soon as possible if their child needs to isolate or if there are unavoidable staffing issues in school on that day. The member of staff will then book a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test immediately. If the PCR test confirms the outcome of the LF test, we will inform parents and a further isolation period will follow for close contacts. However, if the PCR test is negative, then the member of staff can return to school, as can any close contacts.

At St Paul's we will be testing on a Monday and a Friday morning therefore these are the days when there could be potential disruption to school provision due to the LF Testing procedure. I am sharing this information with you in the hope that any advance notice is useful in arranging possible alternative childcare provision for those days, if it were to become necessary.

If your child is asked to isolate at home, they will be able to access remote learning via Class Dojo. The class teachers will have set work for all pupils that can be accessed independently throughout the school day. If your child does not have access to a device

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or if you are entitled to free school meals and require a packed lunch for the isolation period then the school office will be happy to help.

We believe that this is a positive step in helping us to slow the spread of the virus and help protect the most vulnerable in our families and communities. Please be re-assured that the lateral flow testing does not replace existing safety measures in school that protect the community. It remains imperative that our system of controls continue to be rigorously applied to enable the safest possible environment.

Roles in school

Tomorrow will be Mrs Pearson's last day in school. We wish her well in her new post in another Bradford school, and thank her for her work for St Paul's over the last few months. Mrs Timms will be responding to online learning for Year 6 next week and Miss Charles will be returning from her maternity leave, as our Assistant Headteacher, on Monday 8th February. Miss Charles and Mrs Timms will share the teaching in the Year 6 class for the rest of the academic year.

Miss Moreton was running our key stage one interventions last term and will now be focusing on creating a comprehensive reading package for our younger pupils that will be delivered remotely and will be accessible to pupils at home and in school. More details will be shared about this next week.

We are really proud to be able to offer places in school to our vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers, whilst developing our remote learning provision for children at home. Once again we thank you for your continued support and understanding through these challenging times and if school can help you or your family in any way then please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

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