



St. Paul's Dorking

Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Newsletter | Friday 8th January 2021 | No. 9

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing Wholeness

Dear Parents and Carers,

They say a week is a long time in politics—three days at the moment feels like a life time! We were only told on Monday night to move to remote learning! Look how much you and your children (not to mention staff!) have learnt in three days!

Thank you so much for the hugely encouraging e mails you have sent this week, many have had this sort of flavour:

"We wanted to thank everyone behind setting up and updating the online learning. It has been brilliant today, and great for the children to connect with teachers on videos. Well done to all involved. There has been so much work that has gone into it all, and it really is appreciated".

The staff have worked exceptionally hard this week, quite a number of them burning the midnight oil, to get to grips with Teams—you will recall we had to invest a significant amount of money to get our IT in a position to do this and staff had only started getting to grips with it right at the end of last term. Mrs McLeod has been a star in leading this with staff.

We are not currently offering 'live' teaching as we do not feel that it represents a fair and easily accessible route to learning for all children. Many families do not have enough devices to allow for all children to be able to tune into live lessons at the same time, which could mean they would miss out. Our offer of recorded lessons allows families to access the learning in their own time and at their own pace. Children can always rewind parts of the teacher's input that they have not understood. Children can upload each piece of learning and will receive feedback on anything they have 'turned in'. This will give the children interaction with their teacher on a daily basis and if you have any queries these can be raised through the manned year group e mail.

We are planning to start our live catch-up with children who are working from home from **Wednesday of next week**. I have attached the timetable with this letter. We will send you details of 'how to' at the start of **next week**. For the home learners, each year group will be divided into three groups and they will have one session in a group of 15-20 children. They will have a focus for their chat and will have the opportunity to share. This will be led by the teacher leading the home learning that week. The other teacher will be leading learning in school, so I am afraid they will not be free to join that call. The teacher will be supported by a TA. When we send details of how to join we will also remind you of the protocol and expectations we shared with you in the summer with regard to home learning.

We have about a third of the school learning in person and about two thirds at home. As you can appreciate, this is still a large number of contacts so please remind your children that the hygiene rules, social distancing and ventilation requirements are still really essential. Staff are wearing masks at all times, though they may remove masks when delivering whole group learning, and are adhering to the social distancing guidance wherever possible. We are going to use the field to enable bubbles to be more spaced out so if your child is in school, please can they come with a warm coat and wellies.

Mrs Bryan started her maternity leave this week so we said 'au revoir' to her on Wednesday. Mr Hill is the acting deputy head in her absence and Mrs McLeod is taking the lead as upper phase leader in her absence. We wish her well and wait expectantly for news of her new arrival. I would like to thank Mrs Bryan for her dedication and hard work and we will miss her. Mrs Howie has taken the reigns for Year 5 Cedar and Mr Hill will continue to support with the transition as he steps away from the teaching of his class. Mrs Howie has been thrown in at the deep end, but has taken to it like a duck to water! A big thank you to her.

We have been issued some guidance with regard to the access of support if your child would usually access a free school meal. Once we understand what needs to be done we will be in touch. Please can I remind you that the food bank is also available to you as is the community fridge. Details can be found overleaf.

We would like to continue our reading initiative so we are going to make books available for parents to collect and return for home learning children from Reception to Year 2. Book band boxes will be in the office vestibule. You are welcome to come and pick up one or two per child. Please ensure you return any before taking more. We only have a limited supply! Thank you so much for your consideration with this.

Thank you for your positive responses and your continued support at this very challenging time for everyone, Mrs Alden

Communication with the teacher

As a parent please can you communicate through the year group e mail or through the post if this would be a general question

As a child, please use the post or write your message to your teacher at the bottom of your learning. At the moment we have disabled the 'chat' function for the children so that we can monitor dialogue to start with. We will regularly review this.



Uploading and handing in learning

As you know, we are setting a range of tasks each day and there is now the facility to 'turn in' each piece of work. Learning that is 'turned in' will be marked and feedback given.

We understand that some parents/children may need a little time to get into the routine of 'turning in' work and uploading, but please can we have at least one piece per day submitted. The class teacher will tell you which one needs to be 'turned in'.

This can be a photo of your child's learning if it is handwritten or their response if they did this on the computer.

Look for this message on your child's year group team post,

REMOTE LEARNING OVERVIEW AND HOW TO AMEND WORK
Click on the link for a video to help with how to access and amend your work.
Remote Learning Overview and How to Amend Work

Stream

Microsoft Stream

View this video on Microsoft Stream.

Parking

Please can we remind parents that even though we have reduced numbers in school the requirements for parking and keeping the safe zone clear of traffic still remain. We still have about 120 children coming into school daily and we had a near miss this morning with a parents turning in the safe zone. The closest you can park is at the church and then you need to walk your child up as usual.

You can still park in Sainsbury's and walk through the alleyway.

Children's safety is ours and your greatest priority so please park considerably. Thank you.



Queries and Questions

No question is too small... if you have a query please e mail the teacher/TA team through your child's year group e mail.

Eg year1@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk



Phonics

As in the last lockdown, **Phonics Play** have made their resources available for home learners. Their games are very good for practising the skills and we use them in school so the children will have their favourites! It is mainly suitable for Reception and KS1 but could be useful for Year 3 too. The website is www.phonics



Online learning via X Box and PS5

I would like to thank the parent who sent in the instructions from Digital Wales explaining how online learning can be accessed via X Box and PlayStation. The instructions can be accessed via this link: <https://hwb.gov.wales/api/storage/c235e622-45c0-41c3-a589-889e5735e934/using-x-box-or-play-station-to-access-hwb.pdf>

This allows children without unique laptop access but who do have consoles to participate in online learning.



<https://www.nessy.com/uk/>

Nessy (link above) offers fun online programmes to support reading, spelling and typing, approved by the British Dyslexia Association.

They are currently offering discounts such as 30% off their home learning packages with the code ITS2021. Valid until 10th Jan.

Do browse their website above and email Mrs Edwards if interested in Nessy programmes and tools to support your child. With sufficient numbers we will look into upgrading the school's existing subscription to include wider access.

A number of the children use this provision in school but I am afraid we can't transfer that to home use.

Dorking Food Bank have asked us to let parents know that anyone encountering financial difficulties in buying food is very welcome, with or without a food voucher.

The Foodbank is open at the Christian Centre on Tuesdays from 4.45 - 5.45 pm and Thursdays from 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Please contact Mrs Alden in confidence if you would like regular support from the Foodbank

In school learners

If you or your child has symptoms please all remain at home and contact us on covid@stpauls-dorking.surrey.sch.uk and book a test for the necessary individual. Please then contact again once you have the result through the above e mail.

A message from Mrs McLeod for Home learners:

Thank you all for engaging so positively with the Remote Learning being delivered through Teams. It has been really lovely to see some of the fantastic work that the children are completing and Turning In.

iPads - It has been reported that a few people are finding some areas of Teams difficult to navigate on an iPad. We have been researching furiously to find out why this is proving difficult and it would appear that, if you are using an iPad that is running a version of the iOS software below 13.1 it is unable to load OneNote. One fix that has been successful for some parents, is to go to Settings and Software Update and ensure that you have installed all of the available updates. Once you have updated the software to 13.1, you should be able to download the OneNote App (both the update and the App are free).

