



NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families had a good Christmas, despite all the restrictions we had to follow, and I wish you all the best for 2021.

I'm tempted to say here we go again, but we are all much better prepared this time around. What a week it has been though! Every time I think I've never had a week like it, I get surprised by a new record breaker!

In school this week and home learning:

We have approximately 150 children in each day in school. Parents of critical workers will know we've asked them to think really carefully about if they need to be in school or not and they've had separate letters about this.

This means all classes are operating and we are spreading children out as much as possible in classrooms. For Monday, we are moving some children from one class to the other in some year groups, so that we have equal numbers, and these become children's small, consistent groups.

Teachers are balancing time in the classroom teaching the children in school, with time out of the classroom working on remote learning. Teaching Assistants take over during these times. I'm aware there has been some chat about live lessons by St Peter's staff. There is a requirement now in the guidance, for schools to provide some 'live' teaching (it was announced this week) which can be school staff or from sources such as Oak Academy. Once Oak Academy became available, we used it in the last lockdown and aligned our curriculum to what was available from Oak Academy for this school year. We are therefore taking our live teaching from Oak Academy. This isn't to say you won't get any messages from teachers, but I just wanted to be clear how we were meeting that new expectation and you'll see how we've organised school. All our staff are in school on all the days they usually would be. It is a hard balance for our staff, and I think this will become easier next week as we get into more of a routine.

There have been a number of teething problems this week with Office 365, Teams, website logins etc. Thank you for bearing with us. I think things are pretty much sorted now.

We do expect children to be engaging with their online learning and submitting the work we ask for. If you are struggling with online learning please do get in touch with class teachers via the year group email addresses. Or, if you are unhappy with the online learning your child is receiving please email the school office so we can look into it.

Devices for remote learning – we have offered laptops and mobile internet to parents more times than I can remember now. But we are still finding some parents who don't have devices for children to use. If you

need a device, please let us know. We have some more mobile internet sticks on order so will be able to help with this next week if you have a need. Please note, we only provide devices for St Peter's children.

A reminder...

Handwashing – for all children coming into school, please make sure they wash their hands with soap at the external sinks before entering school. Staff will be asking children as they enter school and you will need to take them back to the sinks to wash if they haven't already done so.

COVID19 email address:

If your child has been attending school and you receive a positive coronavirus test for them, we have a dedicated email for outside office hours (after 4pm and weekends). It is only for the purpose of informing us a positive case of coronavirus in the school population.

The address is stpetersholidaycovid@gmail.com

Please get in touch on that email only in those circumstances.

How we can help if you are struggling:

We know from before that lockdowns are tough. We are here and we are here to help. If you are struggling with home learning, getting your children to engage, mental health – the list could go on and on; please do not suffer in silence. Please get in touch with us via the school office by phone or email and the office will take some details from you. Or, for those attending school, myself or/and Mrs Oakley are outside most days at drop off and collection times.

Finally, I wanted to finish by thanking you for how supportive you have been this week. It has been incredibly difficult for you as parents and yet in the middle of it many of you have sent us some lovely messages of support and thanks. They are really appreciated.

We will be in touch with regular communications. At the moment, lots of information is drip feeding out so as I receive things you need to know I will pass them on.

Best wishes,

Mark Davis

Head Teacher

Food Bank

There is quite an amount of food in our food bank box at the front of school. Please do help yourselves to anything you need.

Supporting your child's health during a pandemic

Parents, please follow these links for additional help and information on supporting your child's mental health during a pandemic.



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://www.mindedforfamilies.org.uk/young-people>



If you would like more information about how St. Peter's supports children's emotional wellbeing, please contact Mrs Oakley or Mr Wilkes via telephone or email. You can also find them on the playground before and after school.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event
Friday 12 th February	PD day
Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February	Half term holiday
Thursday 1 st April	End of Spring term