



28th January 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Social distancing at drop-off and collection times

It has come to my attention that some parents are using the drop-off and collection time for their children, as a time to chat to other parents. Whilst I totally appreciate that we are all craving friendships and human contact, can I please remind you that the point of this current national lockdown is to reduce social contacts at every opportunity. Please can only one adult (not family groups) per family drop-off and collect their child, and when lining up at collection time that you all socially distance at all times? Please remember that the more we follow the rules the sooner we can get ALL of our children back into school.

School re-opening to all pupils

The Prime minister announced that schools will not be allowed to fully re-open until March 8th at the earliest. When school receives further government guidance and updates about what re-opening could look like, we will update all of our risk assessment plans in school and let you know as soon as possible. We want all of our pupils back in school, together learning, as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so.

Online Home Learning

Our Home Learning online offer is extending every week and staff continue to upload daily plans and resources via Teams for all pupils from Y1-Y6. There will no longer be a copy uploaded to the school website for these groups, everything will now be via Teams. Please feel free to ring school if you need a reminder of your child's Teams account login.

I continue to be delighted by the level of engagement from pupils online and the work being submitted, please feel free to submit every piece of work your child completes, if it boosts their confidence. There is now an expectation that children will upload at least one piece of work daily via Teams for their teacher to view and where appropriate comment and/or provide feedback/support. I look forward to even more of you logging on to Teams next week.

The daily plans for Reception and Nursery pupils, and their Golden Book Assemblies will continue to be on the school website and this will not stop until we launch SeeSaw in the coming fortnight, if not sooner. I am very excited about this new platform for our younger children and I know that once it is up and running and you can send in pictures and film clips of your children it will be fantastic.

Phone calls home

As you will know teachers have been ringing all of our families, with children at home, every week since the start of the national lockdown. I know that lots of you have appreciated this and we have valued the feedback and contact with you too. However, as Teams is now up

and fully running, I propose that for all those pupils who are engaging daily online, their weekly phone calls will be reduced. If any parent wants a phone call from a teacher at any time, please feel free to message your child's class teacher via Teams or ring the office. Teachers will continue to ring families who are not engaging with Teams to encourage your child to log on and submit work daily and any families who have requested for their weekly phone calls.

Facebook

A quick reminder, we cannot launch the Facebook page until we have enough families who have given permission for their child's photograph to be used, over the last week less than 40% of parents have accessed the permissions form. Please access the online learning permissions tab on the school website and complete the form as we would like to launch this page as soon as possible – it will be wonderful to share all the amazing things pupils are learning both at school and at home.

Technology/Computers/Wifi devices

We have a number of electronic devices eg. Laptops, Wifi routers and free Wifi codes to support parents and their children who need access to technology. If your children are sharing one laptop between them or they are using a mobile phone to access the online learning, then please contact school. We have resources we can loan out to you free of charge, please just ring the school office. Our allocated number of 26 government laptops have arrived this week, so please just ring if you need any help at all.

Virtual Golden Book Assembly

The Golden Book Assemblies for last week and for this week have been uploaded to your child's Teams account. For the Reception and Nursery children yours have been uploaded to the school website and will be moved onto SeeSaw when it goes live. So everyone, please remember to send in examples of amazing work to school via Teams so that staff can share with me and I can celebrate with you.

First Holy Communion (Year 4 pupils)

A letter was uploaded to the school website yesterday with more information about the plan for supporting our pupils in their sacramental preparation. A hard copy, alongside a mass booklet will be posted out tonight, please keep hold of this booklet as pupils will need it during the next few weeks to support their learning.

Year of St Joseph

On December 8, 2020, the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"). In that beautiful letter, the Holy Father proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021 (See: [vaticannews.va](https://www.vaticannews.va)). The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a [Decree](#) granting plenary indulgences for this special year. There are some wonderful resources on the following website: <https://mycatholic.life/year-of-saint-joseph/>

On this day...

Do you know what happened on this day in history? There is a fun website which you can access with lots of topical tips and facts – could your children have fun quizzing you about what happened on their birthday? <https://www.onthisday.com/> Have fun exploring lots of

interesting historical, musical and general knowledge facts, maybe your son/daughter can create a family quiz to share with grandparents? Remember during this pandemic to take time to have some fun in and amongst the challenge of working and learning online.

Asymptomatic Covid-19 Testing of staff in school

This week staff were tested twice and much to everyone's relief no staff member tested positive on either occasion for COVID-19. If a staff member does receive a positive Lateral Flow Test (LFD) test you will receive a text message that morning asking you to preemptively isolate your child at home, staff will then access an NHS PCR test which can take up to 72hours to come back. If this also comes back positive, then the bubble will remain closed and your child will need to isolate for the full 10 days; if the PCR test comes back negative then the bubble will be reopened the following day. I totally appreciate that this may well cause you some difficulty however I hope you understand the need to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Mental Health and well-being

There is a link to a website here: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

The theme is 'Express Yourself' and there are some activity ideas for children on the website, it is supportive resource to help you at home.

The assembly slides, will be scheduled to go live on Teams next week via the new assembly teams group.

I continue to keep you and all of your families in my thoughts and prayers during this challenging time, and I look forward to welcoming you all back into school as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so.

Best wishes,

A D Thorpe

Mrs A. D. Thorpe
Head teacher