



Diocese of Westminster
SS. Peter & Paul
Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Miss T M Peters



20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

In line with government advice, the school has closed at the usual time today and will not re-open until further notice.

We understand the significant impact this will have on the lives of all of our families. It is important however to remember that the objective of this very radical decision is to stop the spread of COVID-19, which is expected to reach its peak at the end of May/start of June. Please ensure that, as you keep your children home, you continue to apply strict hygiene and social distancing rules to both you and your children. This is the only way to lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Please do all you can to ensure that you and your children stay healthy over the coming weeks and months. Children who get COVID-19 can be a-symptomatic, but can, even in this case, still contribute to the spread of the disease. **All children who can stay at home.** One piece of advice we have heard was: Act like you have it, and it might curb the spread.

Now that we have had clarification from the government about the full list of key-workers there might be some parents who now consider themselves to be eligible for this school provision. Please note that we will not be able to run normal lessons, so the provision will be very different for all children. Whether you are a key worker or not, it is important to remember that the overarching guidance of government is still that **all children who can be kept safely at home, should be kept at home.** The full definition of key-workers as released by the government early this morning was sent to all families via classlist.

Today, we asked for parents to let us know if they needed us to provide child care for their child during school closures.

As we have had 4 pupil requests from Monday to Friday, we as a school will not be open. For those children we will, be working to find alternative provision at another school and parents will be contacted directly to be informed of this. Staff will be redeployed not necessarily to the school that our pupils will be allocated to. This might change on a week by week basis.

If circumstances change please contact us. I can assure you that we are contactable on parentsupport@stpetersandstpauls.islington.sch.uk during term time, and as much as possible during the Easter holidays.

Some queries:

What happens after Easter during closures?

After Easter, we assume Islington will have organised Hubs and we will be able to sign post families to, if it is essential.

Please remember the guidance is: if you are working from home, your child should stay at home.



Will St Peter and St Paul Staff be one of the Hubs?

At the moment, we have been told that ALL Islington staff will be placed on a rota basis to assist with the child care being provided. Therefore there is no guarantee that our staff will be there.

Expectation for work.

We unfortunately cannot imply an expectation to complete work set by the school. We will not be in a position to mark the children's work either.

We are setting work to assist you during this time, and to help you structure the day for your child with learning. For example discuss with your child/ren what they will be doing and draw up a timetable for the day/week. See below a simple timetable for your convenience.

- 9am - 9.30 - Language - reading and spelling
- 9.30 - 9.45 - Playtime (physical activity if possible)
- 9.45 - 10.30 - Writing (Phonics and letter formation)
- 10.30 - 10.45 - Playtime
- 10.45 - 11.30 - Maths activities
- 11.30 - 12.30 - Lunch
- Afternoon - Creative work

My child does not work properly on a computer.

The interactive boards the children have in their classrooms are large computer screens. Your child should be treating their screen as though it is an interactive screen, copying to the paper they are writing on, if this is the route you choose to take.

I have no paper at home.

Today, the school has sent home 3 exercise books and a pencil. Please use these.

We will never complete all the work that has been set.

There is no expectation that you do so. We completely respect the decision you as a parent make during this extraordinary time. You may choose to use this as family time, or time to help prepare your child for their future in a practical way e.g. learning life skills like using money, chores, baking, preparing meals etc.

Will school trips still happen?

Trips due to take place in May have not been cancelled including school journey. As things change we will advise you in due course.



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I would like to thank the staff, senior leaders and admin of St Peter & St Paul who have worked incredibly hard and with such dedication to ensure that we can support you during these unprecedented times. It has been a very difficult last 48 hours with huge time constraints and our teaching staff working tirelessly to carry on teaching, preparing work and being there for the children during this anxious time. We would appreciate parents' respect in regard to this.

Lastly, thank you so, so much to our parents who have been incredibly supportive in recognising the huge challenge we as a school have had to face this week. Your positive comments have really lifted our spirits. Thank you again. We have worked around the clock to make this time for you as straight forward as possible and ask for your prayers and continued support during this extremely challenging time.

This is not goodbye but a short interval!

Take care, wash hands and we will see you very soon.

God Bless

Miss T Peters, Miss C McGuinness and the staff of St Peter & St Paul