



Diocese of Westminster  
**SS. Peter & Paul**  
**Catholic Primary School**

Head Teacher: Miss T M Peters

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, congratulations to all families on a successful week of remote learning. As a school, we have worked very hard to improve our remote learning offer by keeping lines of communication between families and teachers to address any issues arising with daily learning.

We have had several parents who are worried and anxious about completing all the work that has been set, but we also have parents who want more than we are currently providing. As a school, we have to find the balance for this.

We know that we have many families with several children, some with limited devices and/ or Wi-Fi access. We are unable to provide live learning as a result of this, as many of our children will miss out to prioritise a sibling. We have a responsibility to set a remote learning curriculum that creates fair access for all of our families and in a manageable way.

We appreciate that many of our parents/carers are working and find it particularly difficult with younger children, therefore today, we have met with the staff and have amended the time scales for work to be completed and returned. Moving forward we would ask that children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2 ) complete work and submit it by the end of the next day and teachers will do their best to mark and return it to you as soon as they can. Key Stage 1 Teachers will also set the work for the next day, the previous evening to allow parents to see the work in advance in case they need help with delivering it the next day.

I would also like to remind all parents that while this is a stressful time for you as parents/carers, this is also particularly challenging for our school staff, who are having to deal with the loss of loved ones, looking after vulnerable family members and dealing with their own child care issues. We truly understand what you are going through. Parents/carers that are being negative and overly critical increases the challenges further. We ask for your understanding and patience.

### **Critical and Key Workers**

We are currently seeking clarity on the roles that constitutes being a key worker. We have a number cap that we must adhere to for safe working practice and if we approach this number, we may have to make difficult decisions and prioritise our critical workers. We also ask that if you are a key or critical worker who does not work full time or every day that you inform us of this and keep your child home on these days and times. Children who have been allocated places and do not attend school on allocated days with no notice may have their places withdrawn.

I must also express how important it is to reserve school places for those who need it most i.e. front line critical workers children. The larger the number of children attending increases the risk of infection being introduced which will fully close pods for two weeks. Please only apply for a place if you have no other option for your child but to be in school.

Please ensure your child/children are on time for school in the mornings and collected on time. We are continuing to use the same start and finish times for the pods as before.

The children who attend school are not being taught face to face in school. Those who are in, are placed with the children from both classes in the pod and are doing exactly the same online programme as those at home and are supervised by one Teaching Assistant per pod.

### **Email responses**

Please be reminded that from the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January emails will responded to between 9am – 5.30pm. Urgent COVID related matters will be replied to everyday where necessary.

### **Assemblies**

It was lovely to see so many families at the Epiphany Assembly. Next week's assembly will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am for Nursery to Year 2, and 10.15am for Year 3 to Year 6. Can I remind families to ensure they turn their videos off and audio off, until the very end when we say goodbye. We also expect all children to behave as though they would in school, or they will not be permitted to enter the Assembly Google Meet.

### **Free School Meals**

Children who are entitled to free school meal vouchers Katie has uploaded the entitled names this week and they were processed and sent out today.

### **Saint James Support**

For any family who is in financial difficulties or in need of food support, Saint James' Clerkenwell are providing outreach to help. Please see attachment

### **Wednesday Word**

Jesus came for everyone: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life.

Have a good weekend

Stay Safe

Kind Regards

Miss T Peters and Miss C McGuinness

