



ST. JOHN BOSCO R.C. V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much for your support following the Prime Minister's announcement of school closures. Today was certainly not the way the staff of I had prepared to begin the Spring Term with our wonderful children.

However, with the number of COVID-19 cases rising significantly each day, both locally and nationally, we must do everything in our power to protect our families. The message is clear: **'Stay at Home'**.

We continue to be open to vulnerable pupils and to the children of Critical Key Workers. Currently we have nearly reached capacity in most classes. **I would like to say thank you to parents, especially those of you who are Critical Workers and have found alternative arrangements, which has helped school to support others who have no alternative.** We have so far managed to accommodate all requests.

Those parents who have a place this week have also been informed that provision of places will be reviewed constantly as we follow the latest government advice. This could result in priority of places being given to support our NHS staff in the first instance.

All communication will be posted on the school website: www.stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk. We will also use our Twitter account @SJBSunderland and our text messaging service to keep you informed of the fast changing guidance which schools are trying to manage. Twitter will be updated daily with prompts and links from class teacher's that may also provide ideas to support your child's learning.

We have analysed the questionnaires recently sent to parents and have tried to put together a learning package which meets the needs of all of our children.

1. A weekly/fortnightly work pack (which includes English, Maths, RE and Curriculum work) will be available to collect from school which children can complete in their work book ready to hand in upon return to school.
2. Daily tasks – English and Maths will be set using our Purple Mash online platform. When you do your 'To Do's' on Purple Mash, remember to add a comment or question – your teacher will respond. We are looking forward to seeing your work!
3. A weekly catch-up with your child's teacher using Google Classroom "Meet Up" will be arranged from next week. Try to log on and get familiar with the programme. (It's similar to Zoom or Teams). If this is a problem, teachers will try to catch up with you via a weekly telephone call.
4. There is also a suggested timetable in each pack.

In addition to this:

- Key Stage 2 children have remote access to Reading Plus (a reading comprehension/reading programme).

All children have access to:

- Timetable Rockstars
- Numbots (KS1)
- Oak Tree National Online Learning
- The BBC are also broadcasting a primary online programme for children starting next week.



Remote learning is a new way of working for us all, so please don't worry. Remember - you are and always have been your child's primary educator. If you feel school could support you further (i.e. loan of laptops/I-Pads/practical resources) please get in touch via the school office. We encourage you to access as much of the learning as possible and we look forward to watching the children engage with the provided materials daily.

School Meals

Those children attending school will have the opportunity to still receive a school meal. If you pay for school meals please continue to do so at www.sunderland.gov.uk.

If you are in receipt of free school meals and your child **is not attending school** you will receive a weekly food parcel which will need to be collected from school. Due to the fast pace of the lockdown announcement this will begin at the end of next week however will take into account two weeks. We will text you when your food parcel is ready to collect.

These are unprecedented times. The purpose of school closures is to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I hope that you and your families stay well at this time, we are all anxious about our loved ones and must work together to do what is needed to protect as many as we can.

Please keep the family of St. John Bosco in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely

L. Peart
Headteacher