



Dear Parents and Carers of St Pauls
05.04.2020

As we embark on another week of limited access to school for the vast majority of pupils, I wanted to make sure that you all know about your possible access to the range of learning support and activities that are available to our pupils and where to find them. There is so much going on. There is also a daily challenge being posted by myself on Facebook and Twitter, with more photos of what you are up to coming through all the time.

Here are the options the staff have set up for you....

- ❖ **Facebook-** @SpaldingStPauls
- ❖ **Twitter-** @SpaldingStPauls
- ❖ Our Class Pages on our **new website-** www.spaldingstpauls-cit.co.uk
- ❖ Class **PADLETS-** access information to these will be sent through via our Text2Parents service, when active.
- ❖ **Class Learning Packs** that were sent out before we closed

Remember that these days are not “normal” for anyone and a lot of “work” may cause stress and anxiety. Try to make reading a priority in the day, even if it is just a few pages a day- talking about the books is a good thing to do as well. There are lots of e-book resources to be found on the Oxford Owl website- see the link on our Facebook page. I have dropped so many links to good sites on there too! Reading, Writing and Maths are the core subjects and a little practice everyday of what they had been learning or already know, will keep their skills, knowledge and understanding “topped up” and then won't find it so hard coming back to school.

With these uncertain times, our pupil's mental health and wellbeing is also important, especially as they will pick up on the adult's worries as well as having their own. Please use this link to support you and your child and how they may be feeling right now.

<https://citacademies.co.uk/a-childs-guide-to-coronavirus/>

E-Safety

Please also ensure that you are being mindful around the websites your children are accessing on the internet as this is a time where children are more likely to be targeted OR have more free time to search more freely and may stumble across sites that are not appropriate. There is some very useful information on our Twitter and Facebook pages about this- VERY helpful.

Routines

Every day feels very strange at the moment, as routines are not in place like they would be on a school day. Make sure you get some fresh air everyday and “timetable” this in to the day so your child knows when it will happen. This will give them something to look forward to and something to aim for each day. Barney (my dog) is now in a routine with this and he doesn't seem so puzzled as to why I am at home and not driving off to work everyday!

I am in daily contact with the Trust and all their Headteacher's and we are sharing ideas and thoughts between schools every day. I am also making sure that the teachers and staff have their homework to do too- it's not just the children that need something to focus on!



Free School Meal Vouchers

We have just been informed that the National Voucher Scheme is being released and our school will inform our families who are currently entitled to Free School meals (NOT those who were having Universal Infant Free School Meals in Reception to Y2) about when they will be provided with vouchers. We will be able to provide a weekly £15 supermarket voucher for every Free School Meal child **from Monday 20th April 2020**. **Sadly, this does not include support with food/ vouchers over the two week Easter break, as the children wouldn't normally be in school anyway.**

If your financial and employment circumstances have changed and you are in need of claiming benefits, you might be eligible to apply for Free School Meals. The school is being notified of newly qualified claims much more quickly now and we will be able to supply you with a voucher much more easily once you have applied online. Please go to

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

and fill out a few details and you will then find out if you are eligible to claim for **this extra money!**

This, in turn, will trigger additional funding, when our school is allowed to open again, so that we can help your child to “catch up” academically from the precious learning time that is being lost while they aren't at school. If you are unsure about what to do, email me on Kira.Nicholls@spaldingstpauls-cit.co.uk and I will try to advise you of what you need to do next.

There is no knowing of how long school will be closed for, but keep up to date with us via our sites, so that your child can maintain their education and learning at home and you can have some fun too.

We will soon be launching our online access to something called “myON” which is part of the Accelerated Reader site we were developing to launch after Easter. This will enable you to find books for your children to read online, whilst access to real books is limited! I will be in touch again, once I have completed the training and we can provide you with access details.

Keep safe and well- thinking of you all!



Miss Nicholls