



Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Angela Folland

Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way

15th January 2021

Headteacher's News

Well, the start to 2021 hasn't quite been what we expected! As a school, we have decided to continue to send a newsletter to all of our parents as usual during this lockdown. We hope in this way to keep you up to date and feeling involved with what is going on for all of our children - whether they are learning at home or in school.

I hope that you are all settling into your new routines and that your families are safe and well. Please remember that we are here for you all - whether at school or at home. All staff are working in school during this lockdown - there is no rota - we feel very much open, if a little quieter. If we can do anything to support you at all, please just let us know.

Important Information



Remote Learning

Thank you to the huge numbers of parents who have contacted their child's teacher to give positive feedback about the feel and style of the remote learning this time. Remote learning by definition is a broad term which encompasses any learning that takes place outside of the classroom with the teacher not present in the same place. We are very clear at OLSP that the curriculum content is vital in ensuring children do not miss out on key concepts during the lockdown. The lessons put onto Google Classroom are not educare, they are exactly the same learning that is taking place in the classroom and will ensure that all children are able to experience the curriculum they would have been taught this term if we were in school.

Class Catch Ups

These have been really successful this week and the children both in and out of school have had a lot of fun seeing their friends, listening to story time and playing some games. Teachers are also using this time to explain learning tasks to children so that they are clearer about what has been set. Please make sure you child joins these meetings - they are a great way of supporting social and emotional health during the lockdown (and will take some pressure off you to know what learning is set)



Parent Workshops

For the parents who have been able to join them this week, the workshops have provided an informal space for the teacher to talk through this week's learning so that you know how to support your child. We have been able to help parents with technical support as well as explaining what the learning tasks are and what we expect from the children in each task.

Technical Issues

We know there have been some technical issues for families accessing Google Classroom and IXL. We have purposely been using Google Classroom for homework since October half term so that the teacher and children were confident in how to use it should this situation occur again so the number of children still having problems is quite small.

Google Meet is the online meeting room that we have been using since last March for staff meetings and multi agency meetings but is quite new for the children. ***A quick way to unmute the microphone if your child wants to answer a question or contribute, is to tap on the spacebar.***

Please email your teacher directly if you are still experiencing difficulties. One teacher did a quick tutorial this week with a parent and shared her screen to walk the parent through accessing Google Meet. We are all very happy to help.

Free School Meals

There has been much in the media this week about the quality of FSM hampers. Our staff have been out delivering hampers to those families who are eligible for FSM. Next week there will be another hamper but from Monday 25th January we are trying to organise vouchers now that the Government have decided to issue them again.

Some of our lovely feedback....

My child really enjoyed Joe Wicks this morning and seeing his friends on the Google meet



*Good afternoon! I just wanted to say thank you so much for the story time...
She loved listening to the story and seeing everyone's faces!!*

I just wanted to send a positive message to you, to say thank you for all the hard work yourself and your colleagues are doing in these unprecedented times. My child loved the class call this morning and it was great for her to see yourself and her friends.

Many thanks for the call. Really helpful and affirming  (about the parents' workshop)

I'm really happy with how my son is getting on and with Google Classrooms in general. Much better than last lock down from our perspective.

Thanks,

Community News

We received a lovely email from Captain Alex Downes from the cruise ship Marella Explorer 2 last week thanking the children for all the Christmas cards they had made for the ship's staff. There is a lovely video on our facebook

page and the letter he sent to the children is attached to this email.

Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery
Website: www.olsp-rc.com

Our Lady and St Patrick's School is committed to safeguarding children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Rachel O'Sullivan Deputy Child Protection Leads: Mrs A Folland, Mrs R Gordon, Mrs S Emmerton, Mrs J Osborne Named Governors for Child Protection: Mrs Lorraine Coulter