



St Stephen's Catholic Primary School

'Working together to succeed, through faith in Jesus Christ'

Headteacher: Mr. S. Hatton
Sandy Lane
Orford
Warrington
WA2 9HS
Telephone 01925 630100

Website: st-stephens-catholic.eschools.co.uk

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE:

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is my final update of the week as we head into the enforced closure of school for the foreseeable future.

Home Learning Activities:

The children have enjoyed a lovely last day in school and will have been sent home with all of their belongings as well as their home learning activities and accompanying resources. They are also available on the school website under the 'Curriculum' tab and can be found under each specific class page. In the event of a prolonged period of absence further work/projects will be added to the websites will be added to the class pages over the coming weeks and you will notified. To support parents/carers further a well-known resource website called Twinkl is offering free access to a range of activities if you visit www.twinkl.co.uk/offers and enter the code **'UKTWINKLHELPS'**. Our staff fully recommend this site as they sources a lot of tasks from here for in the classroom.

I ask our families for help in making sure that pupils who have been absent from school this week have access to a home learning pack and resources. Any packs not sent home will be stored at the school office so if families wish to collect them they may come to the office, ring the doorbell and the packs will be passed out to you by a member of staff. Please spread the word to families and friends!

Communication:

We will be keeping in touch with our families over the coming days and weeks via the school text messaging service, Parentapp and with information posted on the school website. Please check in on the school website as often as you can for updates, posts and resources that may help you during this time. We have also set up an email account for families to use to get in contact with school should they need any help, support or advice during the school closure. This will be monitored daily by Mrs Georgiou and myself. If you feel the need to get in touch then please email us at: contactststephens@gmail.com and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



School Opening for Vulnerable/Key Worker Children:

Government advice and guidance says that pupils shouldn't be in school however we will be open to the above pupils **only** as of next week with a skeleton staff. Parents/carers have been contacted individually to confirm these arrangements. School will be staffed on a rota basis and pupils must arrive at school for 8.45am and must be collected at 3.00pm promptly. School will be operating differently as the aim is to provide childcare and support rather than teach the curriculum. Pupils will engage in a range of practical activities. Pupils are not expected to wear school uniform but must wear comfortable, appropriate clothing and footwear. If your child is in receipt of a free school meal they will be provided with a lunch from the kitchen otherwise children can purchase a lunch, as normal, if their ParentPay account is in credit or they can bring their own packed lunch. It might be an idea to provide a snack and a bottle of water for your child to stay hydrated during the day. Pupils will enter and exit the building via the main entrance which will be supervised by school staff. We will continue to ask parents/carers to not enter the building to comply with Public Health guidance.

Free School Meals:

The Government are about to launch a scheme to support families in receipt of free school meals. Whilst we await further information, school will be providing Tesco e-vouchers for the weekly amount of £12.00 per child to cover the cost of lunches. These vouchers can be collected from school on Monday after 11.30am by a parent/carer or responsible adult who must sign to certify they have received the voucher. We will then review this procedure next week if the Government scheme does not start and we will provide the same vouchers for the week beginning 30th March which would have been our final week of the half term before the Easter break. We hope our families find the vouchers helpful at this difficult time.

As you can see from the information above and the details we have shared across the week, we as a school have tried our best and will continue to do our best by our school community during this difficult time. There doesn't seem to be any right or wrong answer to lots of questions that we all have but we will always endeavour to help, support and guide our pupils and families in whichever way we can, however we can.

During this time there appears to be lots to do with advice, packs and activities but make sure you put the health and well-being of yourselves and your families first – this is why we are being forced to close. Your child's mental health is far more important than their academic skills. There will be lots of changes in behaviour over the coming weeks as children are picking up on the tension and anxiety caused by this pandemic. So try to balance any school work with family and down time. Remember how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during those weeks is long gone – keep that in mind every day!

I will be keeping our whole school community in my thoughts and prayers – pupils, families, staff, governors and our parish. Look after each other, enjoy your time together as family, follow the advice we are given so that we can all come back together again as a school family sooner rather than later.

Best wishes,

Mr. Hatton
Headteacher

