



## St Paul's C of E Junior School

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Headteacher: Mrs J M Taylor

19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Re: COVID-19 Update - School Closure

We wish all of our pupils, families and our staff the best as we begin our first week of school closure. This unprecedented situation will greatly impact on all our lives in terms of health, childcare and employment and we have taken steps to plan for this as best we can. You can rest assured that our team will continue to work together for the benefit of every member of our school community.

School will close at 3.30pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and EnergyKidz will run until 6.00pm.

#### How will we spend the day tomorrow?

The children are invited to come to school dressed in their own clothes and to bring in toys and games. The focus will be fun and enable pupils to enjoy spending time with their classmates and teachers, who will continue to maintain a calm and positive atmosphere. They will spend time talking to the children about the fact that from Monday, it is a school expectation that they continue their learning in the same way as many parents- by "working from home".

#### What does this mean for your child's education?

Continued progress is vital and we ask that you try to create suitable conditions at home for 3 hours of quality work/learning spread over each day. We do understand that this may not always be possible but ask you to do what you can.

#### What work should my child be doing at home?

Tomorrow, each child will receive a pack of home learning activities. Many of the tasks set can be completed with minimal involvement from an adult, however, some would benefit from support from you or possibly an older sibling. In addition, all children will have access to Education City. Login details will be stuck into Reading Records and will also be sent via ParentMail.

#### My child is already off school, so how do I get a home learning pack?

For those families in self-isolation, once the 14-day period has elapsed you will be able to collect a pack from the year group box outside the main reception (Oxford Road entrance). Please do not ring the intercom as school will be running on a skeleton staff and the front office will be unmanned. You can collect a pack via the pedestrian gate which will remain unlocked from 8.50am until 3.30pm every day for the next two weeks.



### **What happens when my child has completed their pack?**

Packs contain work for the next couple of weeks and should school remain closed after the Easter holidays, teachers will post the next pack of work on the homework pages of the website every Monday.

### **What else can I do to support my child's learning?**

There is a huge amount of educational value in playing games, listening to music, discussing topics of interest, gardening, exercising, exploring art and craft activities, cooking or just spending quality time together sharing a story or watching a film.

The BBC and other media companies are in the process of preparing daily educational programming for different year groups, which should soon become available and there is a wealth of free on-line learning activities relating to a variety of curriculum areas.

The National Trust have announced that all their grounds and gardens will be free of charge during this time so that families can enjoy quality time outdoors. We have also heard that Joe Wicks will be delivering a PE lesson on his You Tube channel every weekday at 9.00am <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6r99N3kXME>

### **How will my child's work be marked?**

We will not require learning packs to be submitted to teachers whilst school is closed. Your child should bring in any completed work upon their return and we will endeavour to find opportunities to share and celebrate their effort and achievements.

### **What about SATs?**

There will be no Key Stage 2 SATs for our Year 6 pupils. It is still unclear as to what this means in terms of assessment data for our pupils, but we will keep parents of 6B, 6G and 6W informed of any guidance we receive.

### **How will my child keep in touch with classmates?**

To enable the children to keep in touch within a safe online environment, they can log into the learning platform with their normal user name and password to message and catch up with friends. In the event of problems with access, email [it\\_tec@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:it_tec@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk). Emails will be responded to by the end of the next working day.

### **What can I do to help?**

- Ensure you have access to ParentMail and the school website;
- If possible, allow your child safe access to a laptop, PC or tablet;
- Make sure your child has somewhere quiet to work;
- Ensure your child brings everything home from school on Friday such as bags, coats, lunchboxes, PE kits. Any remaining items will be stored safely and will be waiting here when school reopens;
- Pop into the office to collect any medicines that your child may need at home whilst school is closed;
- Avoid contacting school in the hope that you will be able to retrieve forgotten items as the answer will be a very polite, 'No', as we are duty bound to minimise the number of visitors to our site.

If at any time your child becomes uncooperative or upset during home learning time, it may be a good idea to suggest they take a break or find something else to do until they are in a more positive frame of mind.

### **What do I do if I have already paid for school meals and trips?**

Any credit on your child's SCOPAY account will remain on the account until school reopens;



### **I am a key worker; what arrangements will be in place for my child?**

The government has said that schools must remain open for the most vulnerable children, including those with a social worker or an EHCP. It must also provide supervision for children of key workers. The government have yet to publish the list of roles considered to be key workers or whether both parents must be employed in such roles to qualify. We imagine it may well include health care professionals, carers and supermarket workers, teachers, food and medical supply delivery drivers, emergency services, postal and refuse collections staff and those working for energy companies. To give us some idea of potential numbers, we would ask parents who believe they may qualify for this service to contact us at [keyworker@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:keyworker@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk) with the following information;

- Your name and your child's name;
- Child's class;
- Nature of your work and employer's name and contact details;
- Which days you work so that we know when your child will need to be in school.

Children of key workers will not be required to attend school - this is an optional service. If you think you will qualify, please email us as soon as possible and before 4.30pm on Friday 20th. We will respond with further details regarding arrangements as soon as possible.

**If currently self-isolating, children of key workers will not be permitted to come to school until the period of 14 days is over.**

Finally, we will continue to respond to situations as they arise and will keep you updated via ParentMail during the coming weeks. In the event of an emergency during school closure, please email us at [admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stpauls.wokingham.sch.uk) and we will respond as soon as we can.

We are tremendously proud of our wonderful pupils and our amazing staff team, who have continued to take great care of the children throughout the last few weeks of uncertainty. We are looking forward to the next time we come together as a whole school family and will remain a loving and caring community until then.

Yours faithfully,

*Julianne Taylor*

Mrs J M Taylor  
Headteacher

