



St Paul's Friday Round Up

Friday 15th January 2020

Welcome to our round up of news and information for the week.

Thank you

Over the last few weeks we have received multiple emails, comments and calls to say 'thank you' for all the work that has gone into the remote learning, in-school provision, work packs, support calls and food parcels. These messages have been shared with staff and provide a real lift to everyone. The last few weeks have been some of the most challenging that many of us have faced in the profession and I know that these positive comments have been much appreciated. Thank you!

Remote Learning

It has been really pleasing to join classes across the school for their live stream meetings at the start and end of the day. There has been so much enthusiasm. I know that staff and pupils alike are becoming more accustomed to how Google Classroom works and are getting into their stride with remote learning.

Work packs and text books have been distributed in readiness for next week's work. If you were unable to collect yours in the allocated timeslot, please look out for an email from Mrs Cossar, offering an additional collection on Monday.

Over time our remote learning offer will evolve. Next week Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils will have live daily phonics session. The teachers will explain how this works in the live meet meetings next week.

We have provided Maths and English textbooks for Reception to Year 6. The teachers will start to incorporate these books into their teaching from Monday. Please do not work through the books independently. Your child's teacher will direct the use of these books during the remote learning sessions.

Mrs Lee has continued to issue laptops to families with limited IT resources and will continue to do so once further resources have been configured and are ready to distribute.

During this week class teachers have been phoning families where children are not accessing the remote learning offer. These calls will come from an 'unknown number'. I know that some people are reluctant to answer 'unknown calls'. If you receive one during school hours, do please answer. Many of these calls have been helpful, as teachers can help to get you and your child up and running with the remote learning.

Remote Learning – Tips

Last week I gave some tips to make remote learning manageable according to your family's specific circumstances. The school's remote learning offer is available to all pupils and we want all families to engage with it as best as they can, without placing undue pressure or anxiety onto you. I know that a few families have felt real pressure to complete and submit every piece of work fully and on time. I know that for some this is not always possible. Please do not worry. We want every child to work to the best of their ability in the circumstances you are in. We will support as much as we can. As I said last week, something is better than nothing.

I was really pleased to see that the BBC are now screening education programmes on normal TV during the school day. Their programming for primary aged children is on the CBBC channel from 9am on school days. The programming looks very strong. I have attached a copy of the programming schedule. You may want to encourage your child to watch one or two programmes over a week to bring a bit of variety. I have learnt a lot from Horrible Histories when watching them alongside my daughter – they certainly get us talking!

Increasing Data Allowances on Mobile contracts

The government has been working with mobile phone providers to provide increased data allowances to support children working remotely. Not all providers are participating in the scheme and the scope of the offer varies by provider.

Action:

If your child is accessing remote learning online through a mobile phone and there is a data cap in place, we may be able to help you get an extension to the data limit to help your child with their learning. Please contact the school office by email on: office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk We will contact you to explore the options available. We will need to know the name of the mobile network the phone you are using is on and whether you're on a monthly contract or a Pay-as-you-go deal. Please be aware that the return call may take a few days.

Free School Meal Parcels

This week has seen very considerable press and political focus on provision of free-school meal parcels. I am sure that we have all seen pictures of very sorry, inadequate food parcels. Here at St Paul's we are fortunate to have our own in-house catering team who have worked extremely hard over the last couple of weeks to put together some really impressive food parcels. We hope that those who have received them have found them beneficial. We shall continue to produce parcels during term time, unless government policy changes. If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible to benefits-eligible free school meals please follow this link:

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

If you are eligible for free school meals, had previously declined our offer of a parcel, but would now like one, please email the school office on: office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

Internet Safety During Lockdown

With children spending much more time learning and relaxing online during the lockdown, it is vital that we all do as much as we can to keep them safe online.

[Parentzone](#) is an organisation that works to provide information and advice for parents to help them ensure that their children can get the most from technology safely. I have attached a document with some of their advice and information for parents during lockdown. I hope that you find this helpful.

Oral Health Workshops

The school nursing team are offering a number of remote access oral health workshops over the next few weeks. They provide advice and tips for children and their families on how to keep your teeth and gums healthy. I have attached the fliers advertising these workshops to this bulletin.

Asymptomatic COVID Testing for all Hounslow Residents

The local authority are now able to provide asymptomatic COVID testing to all Hounslow residents. This means that you can arrange a test even if you do not have any COVID symptoms. I have attached a copy of the flier explaining how to arrange an asymptomatic COVID test.

How to respond to COVID symptoms

The local authority have put together a flowchart to help parents work out how to respond to COVID cases in the household. I have attached this to this bulletin for your information.

Contact:

To contact the school, please send an email to office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk **We have significant staff absence and you may not get a response as swiftly as usual.**

To contact the Chair of Governors: chair@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk