



St Paul's Friday Round Up

Friday 22nd January 2020

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

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

I am always amazed by the generosity of our school and our wider local community. Those of you who remember our fire in 2013 will also remember that our school families, ex-families, local businesses, our church and other churches as well as local schools offered help to the school.

At the start of this lockdown a couple in the local community contacted me having heard about some of the difficulties families with limited IT are having accessing remote online learning. They made a very generous donation, which the school match funded. As a result, we have been able to purchase and commission 20 new Chromebooks. Next week we shall distribute these to families in the lower phases of the school in greatest need of IT resources to support remote learning. The Department for Education's scheme does not provide for pupils below Year 3, which is why we will target the younger age group first. I am extremely grateful for this very generous donation and I know that it will ease the pressure and support the quality of learning for many families in the school.

In addition, Mrs Lee has been able to distribute IT resources to many families in Key Stage 2. I am very grateful to Mrs Lee, Mr Riley and our IT support contractor, Strawberry 7 for their prompt work to prepare and distribute these resources as rapidly as possible.

Next week our IT contractor will work on converting a set of Windows netbooks into Chromebooks in order to create more IT resources to distribute.

Messages of Thanks

This week we have continued to receive messages of thanks from families across the school. These are really uplifting and we thank you for them.

Telephone Calls

Over the last few weeks school staff have made calls out to every family in the school. We have got through to the very vast majority, but not all. Do be aware that a call from school staff may show on your phone as a 'withheld number' this is because many staff are working from home. Please pick up a 'withheld call' if it occurs during normal school hours, as this may be school staff ringing to check in with you.

Remote Learning

I know that remote learning can be very challenging. I have been very impressed by the engagement and hard work across the school. We all know that every family is different and that we all have very many pressures on us at present. Every family will find their own system to make remote learning manageable and we will help to facilitate that as much as we possibly can.

I hope that you found the textbooks and exercise books that were available to collect from school at the end of last week helpful for this week's learning. I also hope that those of you with children in Nursery to Year 1 enjoyed the live phonics sessions.

It was great to lead a whole school worship assembly on Wednesday. It was so nice to see so many children from across the school and to participate together in a collective worship. I know that there is an upper limit on the number of people that can join these live events and so I will always record the assembly as well, so that if your child isn't able to join the live event, they can still participate in the assembly. At present my diary is a little unpredictable, so I am not able to set a fixed time and date for an assembly every week. I will always notify teachers in advance and ask them to let the children know in their live stream meetings.

Mass Lateral Flow Testing

There has been a lot of media coverage this week around Mass Lateral flow testing in schools. In the primary sector this will involve frequent testing of staff attending the school site regularly. We hope to be in a position to start this testing programme next week. We await test kit delivery.

COVID safety on site

We are mindful that a few children attending the school's onsite provision are being collected by different family members, friends etc. The COVID lockdown rules require us all to reduce social mixing and contact. We should not be in contact with multiple households. Doing so places a risk on the entire school community.

Child minding is allowed, as is the use of support or childcare bubble. Please find below [government information](#) on childcare bubbles and support bubbles:

What a childcare bubble is

A childcare bubble is where one household links with one other household to provide informal childcare to anyone under 14. All adults in both households must agree to this arrangement. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered.

Members of either household can provide childcare in a home or public place. This includes overnight care.

You can only have one childcare bubble with one other household. This means no household should be part of more than one childcare bubble.

You can only use a childcare bubble for childcare. You cannot use a childcare bubble to mix with another household for other reasons.

If you form a childcare bubble, it's best if this is with a household who live locally. This will help prevent the virus spreading from an area where more people are infected.

Who can make a support bubble?

Not everybody can form a support bubble. However, on 2 December the rules changed to widen eligibility for forming one.

You can form a support bubble with another household of any size if:

- you live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support*
- you are the only adult in your household who does not need continuous care as a result of a disability*
- your household includes a child who is under the age of one or was under that age on 2 December 2020*
- your household includes a child with a disability who requires continuous care and is under the age of 5, or was under that age on 2 December 2020*
- you are aged 16 or 17 living with others of the same age and without any adults*
- you are a single adult living with one or more children who are under the age of 18 or were under that age on 12 June 2020*
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You should not form a support bubble with a household that is part of another support bubble.

Childcare and support bubbles are not 'portable', once formed they should not be repeatedly reformed.

Please ensure that your collection and childcare arrangements reflect these regulations. At this current time children should not be having sleepovers across multiple households or mixing in multiple households.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

Healthy New Year Calendars

The school nursing team have circulated a healthy new year calendar for children in primary schools. They are an interesting way to promote healthy ways of life. I have attached them to this bulletin.

Contact:

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

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