



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
Headteacher - Mrs B Wood
Chapel Lane
Longton
Preston PR4 5EB

St Oswald's Catholic Community:
With Christ at the centre of our
community, our mission is to live,
love and learn as Jesus taught us.

Email head@longton-st-oswalds.lancs.sch.uk
bursar@longton-st-oswalds.lancs.sch.uk

Tel: 01772 613402
Fax: 01772 613440

The Newsletter

Spring term no.1 –8 January 2021

Keeping in Touch every week

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Dear Parents,

This should be my welcome back to school newsletter but I find myself writing to you as our school once again becomes emergency provision for children of critical workers with the clear message being that if you don't need us, don't use us as we need to reduce the amount of potential transmission of this virus. Keeping safe is paramount for everyone.

Critical Worker Requests:

As instructed by the Government, school remains open for the provision of vulnerable and critical worker children. According to the guidance, those in critical roles will have their children prioritised for education provision in School, if they cannot be kept at home. The government has also stated ***that many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home***, and that ***every child who can be safely cared for at home should be***.

For the safety of our children, families and school staff, it is important that we keep the number of children who are in school as low as possible. Your support with remote learning at home is greatly appreciated and we very much hope that all our efforts will reduce the spread of infection and save lives. As such we have a very detailed risk assessment and during this time any child in school who cannot adhere to the strict routines of distancing, handwashing, no touching etc will not be able to keep their place. We have 35% of families wanting a place which compares to 10% in the last lockdown. We have had 80 children on site each day over the past 3 days.

Home Learning:

The children in school are doing the same learning that is being set for Home Learning as we feel this is only fair and equitable.

Home Learning will be updated daily by 4.30pm for the next day's learning which is accessed via the daily blog on your child's class page on the school website.

There will be a facility by next Friday to upload work done from home and send it to the class teacher who will provide feedback as soon as they reasonably can.

All children are expected to do as much of the learning set as possible.

If you have any queries or need advice with Home Learning, please get in touch!

Reading Books:

There is a wide range of e-books available from the 'Oxford Owl for Home' which is in the Home Learning section on the website. The class login is provided on the class page which enables you to browse through the library with books for all age groups. We are more than happy to change reading books as often as necessary. Just let us know by phone or e-mail and we'll have them ready for you to collect from the office. Last term we saw such great progress in reading and we really want the children to keep this up over the next 6 weeks. Being able to read

Visit our web-site www.longton-st-oswalds.lancs.sch.uk

fluently and with understanding is the key to unlocking all learning so please make sure your child reads every single day!

Technology:

Your child will need access to a tablet or computer to be able to access part the home learning. If your child does not have access to a device, please email school to arrange a loan for a fixed period. Devices must only be used by pupils for remote learning activities in line with our Acceptable Use Agreement.

Resources:

If your child needs any resources to assist with their home learning e.g. pencils, exercise paper etc. Please contact us. Exercise books for your child's home learning are available from the school entrance for you to collect.

P.E Bags:

If your child's P.E Kit is still in school, please drop us an email to arrange to collect.

Hot school meal service:

As from Monday, the school kitchen will be able to provide hot meals for children who are attending the emergency provision for critical worker children. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a hot meal, free of charge under the Universal Free School Meal Scheme. However if you wish for your child to bring a packed lunch from home, please email school by 12pm Friday.

Any children in Year 3 – Year 6 who wish to have a hot packed lunch at the cost of £2.30, please email school by 12pm Friday.

Free School Meals:

All parents of children who are eligible for free school meals i.e.: in receipt of benefits (not Universal Free School Meals for Reception – Year 2 children) will receive a food pack whilst schools are closed. The pack is for 7 days which will be delivered to school on Tuesday and available to collect from the school entrance between 12pm to 3pm on Wednesday.

Whilst the Edenred system is not currently set up to support term time ordering of vouchers, this is something that the DfE are urgently working on. We are hoping over the next few weeks that we can continue to provide vouchers for those eligible pupils who will not be attending school during lockdown.

Just a reminder that if you are in any doubt whether you may now be entitled to free school meals for your child, please contact Pupil Access Team at Lancashire County Council on 01772 531809 with your Name, Date of Birth and National Insurance Number. You may be able to receive a weekly free school meal voucher for £15.00 (£60.00 per month per child/ £120.00 per month for 2 children and £180.00 per month for 3 children). The vouchers are to be spent at your chosen supermarket. It is definitely worth trying to see if you are eligible

Qualifying benefits:

If you or your partner receive any of the following benefits you can apply for free school meals.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Useful links:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/10-top-tips-remote-learning-for-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Important Reminder!

Primary School Admissions 2021:

The closing date is **Friday 15th January 2021** for your application for a Primary School place for September 2021. Please remember to return the Supplementary Faith Form with a copy of your child's baptism certificate. Don't forget!

And finally...

Please take great care of yourselves during this time. We are here if you need anything, so just get in touch.

Yours sincerely

B Wood
Headteacher