

St. Wilfrid's Catholic (VA) Primary School and Nursery



Golborne Road Ashton-in-Makerfield Wigan WN4 8SJ
Tel: 01942 707101 Fax: 01942 204597
enquiries@ashtonsaintwilfrids.wigan.sch.uk
Headteacher Mrs G O'Brien

Dear Parent / Carers,

Reflection on first week of school closure and information going forward

I write to you this week to reflect on the first week of term and how things are progressing for the rest of this most unusual half term. The first two days of the term seem to have gone reasonably well given that the school has been closed to normal learning. What has been heartening is the level of communication between us all to overcome any issues

Remote Learning

It is safe to say that we will be providing remote learning for at least another 25 working days until Friday February 12th (up to half term), if the government extend the school closure period after that we will be ready to adapt to any updates.

We now have Microsoft Teams to support the junior children and we also have Seesaw as back up to this for the juniors. We know that the infants will have some engagement with recorded sessions but live ones school decided it might be too hard to keep focus so you can pause and play as required. So therefore we are now in a position to deliver a full suite of remote teaching provision. I have no doubt though, that when managing a system that delivers lessons to over 100 homes, there will be problems on the technology aspect. With so many different levels of equipment at home and varying levels of quality broadband, it is an extremely difficult task and one that will have problems.

Your feedback has been incredible and clearly, as parents, you are doing an amazing job to balance your own work and domestic lives as well as supporting your children, in many cases with not enough devices to go round. Therefore, the message is clear, we can all only do our best, we fully appreciate that you will not have perfect situations at home and likewise, staff in school are learning all of the time.

I hope that this form of learning is temporary, but in the meantime, we will remain ambitious to ensure our pupils get a good deal. Attendance to learning is not optional, however we will be understanding in situations of temporary technology issues.

As your child will be using technology more over the next few weeks, I thought that it would be helpful to share with you safety information. We are all aware of the benefits of technology; however, we must remain vigilant and ensure that our children remain safe online. Below are some websites that you may find useful:

SWGfl is a very useful site that has information regarding a new family pairing feature for TikTok. It also has a social media checklist to support parents:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/tiktok-update-parentalcontrols-with-family-pairing-feature/>

CEOP: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> is an online reporting site that is monitored by the police.

UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/> has online safety tips, advice and resources.

In addition to this, you may have concerns about your child's mental health and wellbeing or other safeguarding concerns. Below are links to various websites that may be able to help and support you.

MIND: <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

Samaritans: <https://www.samaritans.org/>

NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

Keeping children safe | NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

Finally, the Online Safety page on our website has a wealth of information for you. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Stay safe

Mrs O'Brien
Headteacher.