

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

04 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

NEWSLETTER 3

A very warm welcome back to this new half term. As we return to school, we are yet again facing new and unknown challenges with another national lockdown. Our aims for the next half term are to keep the school open and to keep the school safe. To ensure we meet both of these aims, we will need the support of all of the Brownedge family.

The biggest challenge during the last half-term was keeping infection rates low and keeping staffing levels high enough to allow us to be fully operational. In my opinion, we did this very effectively and the safety measures we put in place allowed us to be one of the least affected schools in South Ribble.

We have learned a great deal since the first lockdown in March and as a school, we will continue to evolve and adapt to the many obstacles in our way. Educating our pupils remains our priority and we have invested significantly in ICT and systems to ensure we provide a continuation of learning regardless of class bubble isolation periods, partial year group isolation periods, individual absences or even school rota systems that may be enforced on us. Work has continued over this half-term break to ensure that we are ready for any eventuality.

In view of the national lockdown measures to be imposed from Thursday 5th November, we have reviewed the risk assessment in place during the Tier 3 restrictions and have made the following additions:

- **No parents or visitors will be permitted in school except for prearranged meetings.** Please do not come to the school door to have a conversation with our Administration Team. Staff are available to talk with parents via email or telephone.
- All parents **must wear face coverings** when dropping off and collecting after school if entering the school gates.
- A revised and updated **extracurricular** timetable will be available next week. Unfortunately this is more limited than we have operated pre half term and that we would normally have at this time of year. This cannot be avoided I'm afraid.
- We are currently planning for **virtual Parents' Evenings**. More information about how to sign up for this will be distributed at the end of November.

We will continue to educate our pupils on how they can make themselves as safe as possible in terms of Hands, Space, Face. Please could you remind them of the importance of going straight home and not hanging around after school in groups and not visiting friends in their homes for any reason.

Once again a huge thank you to the staff, parents and pupils for all that they have achieved. The pupils have certainly risen to the challenges put in front of them, and I agree with a statement I heard recently that no generation of children should have to face what this generation has had to - it does seem unfair. Your support is greatly appreciated and I sincerely thank you for your support and words of encouragement during such difficult times. We pray and hope that Christmas can offer some respite and normality.

Kind regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher



New lockdown rules for England

Main restrictions from Thursday 5 November



Pubs and restaurants closed
but takeaways permitted



Non-essential shops, leisure and
entertainment venues closed



No households mixing indoors, or
in private gardens, unless in your
support bubble



Stay home – only leave for specific
reasons including education and work



Schools, universities and colleges
remain open



Outdoor recreation encouraged, you can
meet one person outside your household