



# St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

## NEWSLETTER 29.01.2021

#14

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are safe and well! I understand how exceptionally difficult this time is for all of you and your children. It has been wonderful to 'drop in' to the Google classrooms this week and see the children enjoying their learning. I very much appreciate the challenges that remote learning presents, so parental support and encouragement makes such a difference to the children's experience. At the start of each year staff are reminded that the academic year is a marathon, not a sprint, so please treat this time away from school similarly. Routine and structure for the children is important but also flexibility and adaptability is key.



With school closures continuing, we will continue to develop the remote education we are offering. As the weeks go on, you will notice changes and improvements to what we are offering. We recently introduced our teacher instruction videos and weekly celebration videos – the response has been great! Thank you for your supportive and helpful feedback—it is always welcome and allows us to improve what we are offering.

We continue to report attendance to the Local Authority. Teachers are completing daily registers to identify pupils who are engaging and those who are not. Phone calls to those who have not engaged have taken place and the school has provided support for pupils who have had difficulty in accessing our online provision. When pupils upload their work, their class teacher will register them as engaging with their work.

Earlier in the month, the Department for Education (DfE) announced it would provide laptops and tablets to schools to help children and families access remote education during closures. Our devices have finally arrived; however, for the 452 pupils we have on roll, we have only received 18 devices. Those who are eligible for the devices will be contacted by the school next week. For families that have a PlayStation or Xbox, please see guidance on our school website on how to use these devices to access Google Classroom. We will continue to look for ways to support our families with limited devices.

Our Key Worker pupil numbers remain high and with the announcement that schools are remaining closed until March, the requests for Key Worker places continue. Ideally, all Key Worker children who wish to attend should. However, this is not possible due to our staffing levels and available space. Guided by our rigorous Covid-19 Risk Assessment we unfortunately have no choice but to prioritise places. Given the demand for places and the reduced capacity, it is sadly not possible for the school to accommodate all requests. I am sure you appreciate that the School is doing its utmost, despite the numerous challenges, to deliver the required learning in a safe environment, whilst at the same time providing remote learning for the pupils who are not in school.

Mr Ashburn.

### STAFF INSET DAY—FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

As scheduled on our School Calendar, the school will be closed for staff training on Friday 12th February. This will mean that teachers will not be setting work on Google Classroom on this date and Key Worker pupils will not be attending school. The school will be closed for the half-term break—Monday 15th February to Friday 19th.

## Useful links

### GOOGLE CLASSROOM SUPPORT VIDEOS

[https://  
stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/  
COVID-control-plan/support-with-  
google-classroom](https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/COVID-control-plan/support-with-google-classroom)

### GOOGLE CLASSROOM ON CONSOLES

[https://  
stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/  
COVID-control-plan/access-google-  
classroom-from-a-game-console](https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/COVID-control-plan/access-google-classroom-from-a-game-console)

### REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

[https://  
stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/  
COVID-control-plan/remote-](https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/COVID-control-plan/remote-)

### GOOGLE CLASSROOM SUPPORT EMAIL

If you have any questions or problems regarding Google Classroom please email:  
[support@stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk](mailto:support@stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk)

### TEACHER CALLS

Teachers have been calling parents to see how pupils are managing with their remote learning. Calls from teachers will take place every other week and teachers will be available to message on Google Classroom each day. Please be aware that as well as providing support online, teachers will also be teaching in class so response times may take longer than usual.