



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

'Doing our best for God'

Date: Thursday, 07 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon everyone,

Schooling for our children who are eligible for school started well yesterday. For those children still at home, I know that our parents have had a different experience. I appreciate that everyone is in a different position. We have parents working from home, whilst trying to support their child, parents who are not working but feel the pressure having children at home, missing school in all its forms from engaging with their teacher, to socialising with their friends and parents and children who are not very familiar with the platforms for remote learning. More than one child at home – a challenge in itself. I appreciate all the challenges that are being presented to you and likewise, our staff are on this journey with you.

Many schools had just started the Remote Learning experience/training when the first lockdown was announced last March. Since then, our small school has been open full time to many Key Worker children and all our staff have been in school delivering face to face teaching, so delivering Remote Learning is in its infancy for our school. That said, I know our teachers have worked tirelessly to fast track their learning so they can deliver the 3 hours of expected Remote Learning, expected by the DfE, to the children who are at home, whilst delivering face to face learning in school.

I am delighted with the response from parents regarding the Remote Learning, as many have engaged and are engaging at the level that each family is able to. Those that are having more challenges, we are reaching out to you to support you in different ways. Although previous correspondence from school relating to devices, highlighted that we had very few families that did not have some sort of device to access the platform, I am aware that we range from a phone to a smart apple device. We would love to be in a position to be able to provide a laptop or iPad for all families, but sadly, like many schools, we are unable to. The Government informed our school that in terms of vulnerable children on roll, we were only entitled to 3 devices. They took quite a long time to arrive and although further correspondence has highlighted maybe 8 more may be arriving (October), as yet we have been given no additional devices.

Procedures in place that we are asking you to follow:

- Please do not ring the office with problems relating to Remote Learning.
- If you are using the Google Classroom platform and have any issues, please post a message on the feed to the individual teacher



Devonshire Road, Bispham, Blackpool FY2 0AJ

Tel: 01253 353461

Email: admin@stbernadette.blackpool.sch.uk

Web: <https://st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk>

Head Teacher: Mrs Alexis Satterthwaite



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- If you are still struggling with the platform and have not made contact with your child's class teacher or do not have a suitable device to access Remote Learning, please make contact: google.classroom@st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk
Miss Scarlett is our Lead Teacher for this platform and will reply and support as soon as she is able to. Please check out the school website for further support – 'Google Classroom tile on the front page.'
 - You can use many devices to access the Remote Learning. This includes but is not limited to:
 - ❖ Computers
 - ❖ Laptops
 - ❖ Chromebooks
 - ❖ Tablets
 - ❖ Gaming computers such as Xbox and Play Station
 - ❖ Smart phones
 - We are also exploring ways to increase mobile data for families who do not have access to broadband. If you are in this position, please email school admin: admin@st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk and we can make contact with you

As with the previous lockdown, it is important to establish a routine with your children early on. This will help them to know what to expect from each day. Although not physically in school, all children should be accessing learning every day. As I have said previously, there will not be pressure from school if you have not completed all the tasks set on the Google Classroom (these tasks mirror what is being taught in school) but if your child is not engaging with learning, then we have a duty of care to respond to this and so will be in contact with you to offer support.

As we progress through the first two weeks, we will also be making calls home to say hello and check that all is alright. Class teachers will make contact regarding the procedures. I will also be making calls home on a pastoral and wellbeing level, so you do not feel isolated.

Once again, I will continue to send correspondence out to parents on a regular basis and keep you updated as and when we receive information from the Government, DfE and/or the Local Authority and as always, if you have any concerns, please make the relevant contact as expressed above. Father Peter continues to send in the daily prayer messages that the children engage with during the morning Collective Worship. I have asked all teachers to put this daily message on the Goggle Classroom so you can reflect in daily prayer together; I will also put it on the Faith Page within the school website.

I would like to express my eternal gratitude, on behalf of all the staff, for being patient and supporting us as we navigate this sometimes overwhelming situation. Thank you to all our children for being so resilient. You are certainly a wonderful group of young people who will hopefully look back on this challenging time knowing that you tried your very best, because as we know, *'God does not give us anything that is too much to handle.'* We genuinely understand that parents and staff would like their children in school, but for now we need to follow the guidelines, set out by the Government, so our school community is as safe as possible.

For all our children: It's like we are in a storm where everything is unsettled but



*"What's the best thing you've learned about storms?"
"That they end," said the horse*

Charlie Mackay

Please take care of each other,

"Love begins by taking care of the closest ones – the ones at home."

Mother Teresa

Alexis Satterthwaite

Head Teacher



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