

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S  
C of E Primary School

11.02.21

Dear Families,

As this spring half term draws to a close, we wish you all a very peaceful and healthy break. What a different half term this one has been. One full day in school, an overnight switch to lockdown and remote learning for many children with school remaining open for our key worker families and those who need us. Thank you to all our families for their support and to our staff who have worked so tirelessly to deliver lessons, feedback to families, keep in touch and offer pastoral support. We are all so proud of our wonderful children and our school community and we look forward to when we can all be together again. Tomorrow, each family will be sent a special recording, made by the children in school, which we hope brings you joy.

We will close the class emails at the end of tomorrow and we ask that you continue to use the Office email, as always, should you wish to contact us. Class emails and remote learning will begin again on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. An email will be delivered, as usual at 8.30am on this day. Please only bring children to school that day if you have already been offered a place.

#### **Wellbeing Wednesday and No Screen Time:**

Following on from the wonderful responses we had from children and families to 'Children's Mental Health Week' and our 'Non-Screen' day, whilst lockdown continues, we intend to devote a Wednesday afternoon to activities away from the screen, which we hope our children will enjoy and benefit from. Teachers will send further details via class emails.

#### **Track and Trace over the holiday period:**

#### **Information from Leeds City Council regarding Track and Trace up to 6 days after the closure of school**

Over the half term break, we hope all our families keep safe and well. Unfortunately, given the nature of the virus, we know that there is always a chance of positive cases within our community. We ask for your support as follows:

- If your child tests positive at the start of the holidays **and was in school in the two days prior to showing any symptoms (this means over the weekend, if your child is in school on the 12<sup>th</sup> February)** please inform us by emailing [office@whinmoorstpauls.co.uk](mailto:office@whinmoorstpauls.co.uk)
- We will then contact all families of children who have been in close contact with the child (or staff member) who has tested positive and inform you that your child needs to isolate over the holiday period, following government guidelines.
- It is imperative we have an up to date phone number and email address for each family. Please let us know of any updates
- Our office email will be checked during the 6 days following the closure of school, each morning 9.30am – 12pm and 1pm – 2pm

We sincerely hope that, over this crucial period, none of our school community tests positive and we do not have to inform staff and families to isolate but if we do, we ask that you follow all guidelines to the letter.

Public Health England have informed us that at this current time, instructions given from school to pupils and staff to self-isolate, if they are identified as close contacts with a positive case, are legally binding as the school are working on behalf of and on the advice of the DfE and themselves.

## **Values**

At school, all we do is underpinned by the Christian ethos of valuing the individual. We believe that every child is respected as a unique child of God, the future adults in society. We are privileged to work with families and carers, supporting and enabling our children to live life to the full. After half term, we will focus on Hope and the promise of Easter, linking to the British Values of tolerance and justice. As we prepare for Easter, we will join many schools in taking part in the Rhythm of Life Lent journey. This is a journey through lent produced by the Diocese of Leeds Education Team.

## **WC 22nd Feb - consultation week**

Over this week, our phone calls to families will take the place of the face-to-face consultation meeting we always have around this point in the school year. The meeting will consist of a phone call of just under 10 minutes between the parent/carer and the teacher. During the meeting, we will focus on how your child has engaged with learning over the lockdown period, their strengths, targets, areas for development and any particular issues which have arisen. If parents/carers have any questions, we will also address these. Of course, as always, we will continue to contact parents daily via class emails and by phone each week. Please share with us any concerns at these times. Your teacher will contact you via class email with further details.

## **World Book Day**

This year, World Book Day takes place on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme is 'Don't judge a book by its cover.' We've lots of ideas to celebrate reading and story-telling. If children wish to dress up they can, but we don't want families spending money on costumes at this difficult time - we thought children may enjoy making a 'book den' at home or school, where they can enjoy reading their books. Or perhaps turning a potato into a character from their book. Or putting on PJs earlier in the evening and enjoying an extended story time, rather than screen time. We have lots of other lovely ideas, which we will share with families before the day itself. Please look on the official World Book Day site, for other great ideas and suggestions.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and wish you a peaceful, safe and happy February half term break. We hold all our families in our prayers.

Miss McBride

Head teacher

