



## St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Mr S. D. Marshall  
Headteacher

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Dane Park Road  
Ramsgate  
Kent  
CT11 7LS

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

### Update

#### A prayer of HOPE

**'Dear God, As the sun rises on our day, may Your light dawn on our hearts. Reveal Your character and goodness to use as we put our hope in You'.**

Dear Parents/Carers,

How are you? How are the children?

I pray that you are all managing to keep well at this time. It remains a very stressful, anxious and hard time for everybody. If you are struggling at the moment, then my Deputy and I are on the gates each day and are happy to talk or just listen. If you are at home then please give us a phone call if you need to. Everyone is trying to juggle remote learning and work commitments so you are not on your own. Remember we are all in this together and St Ethelbert's can help you as much and as best as we can.

If I may, I wanted to share joy for our school as we end another busy week. Last week, we sent out a Google Survey to parents to see how we can improve remote learning further. Even though there were one or two little things that need addressing, we were thrilled with the response in such challenging circumstances. Here are some of the results:

98% parents agree or strongly agree that communication has been good during the school closure.

85% of children are accessing 3 hours or more on Google classroom.

91% of parents agree or strongly agree they are getting sufficient work.

100% of parents are confident to contact the school if they are worried about their child's wellbeing.

95% of our children are accessing Google Classroom.

96% of parents agree or strongly agree that the teachers are online 9-3pm, supporting their child

These results are very good and it is down to all teachers and parents working so hard together. I have also received some lovely emails from parents. Thank you very much for your feedback. We will continue to digest your feedback and will continue to improve.

#### Critical Worker children in school - Reminder

Firstly, thank you so much to parents who reviewed their situation last week and kindly offered to make alternative arrangements at home because you were able to. I have copied the below message from last week just in case you missed it. Please ignore the rest of this section if you have seen it already.

'The number of pupils eligible to attend school under the Critical Worker provision is much higher than during the first lockdown. We are currently having 72 children in school whereas during the first lockdown





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it was about 10. We therefore need to ensure that we can accommodate those most in need whilst recognising that we must continue to do everything that we can to keep staff and pupils as safe as possible in school in light of recent Coronavirus developments. The guidance from the Department for Education has been updated in the last 48 hours reiterating that whilst children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required, parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

For our part, I must stress that places in school for Critical Worker children are finite and we ask that you only take up a place if absolutely necessary. As a community, we must ensure that there is space for our healthcare workers' children and other vital roles that are actively helping fight the pandemic. Many of our critical workers, particularly hospital and frontline medical staff, will be working additional hours and covering multiple shifts and we want to ensure that we prioritise those with the most urgent need.

Accordingly, we are now asking you to review your needs and consider only sending your child to school if it is absolutely necessary in order to carry out your Critical Worker role. It is my wish to accommodate parents' needs as far as safely possible for my staff and children in our care.

Please take some time if you can, to review your own situation and consider where you can reduce your need. Please send any updates via the office to enable us to plan for the week ahead.'

### Remote Learning – Live Lessons and Feedback

Thank you for your patience while we set up live/pre-recorded lessons. Teachers are online 9-3pm (minus lunch and break), offering differentiated activities and following a full curriculum as much as we can. To improve Google Classroom further is to now make things consistent across all classes. Therefore, by next Friday all children will receive the following:

EYFS/KS1 - 3 live or pre-recorded lessons and a Collective Worship per day (this may include Phonics, Maths, English). Story time will also be included.

KS2 - 3 live lessons or pre-recorded lessons and a Collective Worship per day (this will include English, Maths and Project). Story time will also be included.

Collective Worship will be every morning at 9am and will include a prayer before going through the timetable of the day.

In addition to this, Mr Williams and Mrs Donnelly Gore will continue to film their superb PE and French lessons once a week. French will be for KS2 and PE will be for all year groups. It will be activities that you can do at home. We will upload the lessons every Friday afternoon.

Please make sure your child is supervised whilst they are on Google Classroom to avoid any inappropriate behaviour. We do monitor all comments and any inappropriate behaviour or activity will be followed up by a phone call from myself or Ms Dowd. I am glad to report that we have not had to make any calls as all the children have been so sensible.





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### Communication Reminder

Hopefully by now you have heard from the class teacher twice over the phone. We plan to phone you on a fortnightly basis to make sure you are all okay, to see how the children are getting on with Google Classroom and to answer any specific questions. Our main preference for communication at the moment is telephone, admin email, Facebook or Google Classroom. We are not using Dojo for remote learning.

### Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Week beginning 1st February is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. We thought that it would be a great idea to celebrate this in some way or another and get all the children to join in both at school and at home. Teachers will be setting assemblies and activities both at school and on Google Classroom. On Wednesday 3rd February we are going to have a self-expression day where children will be able to wear their own clothes as an expression of themselves e.g. bright, favourite colours. Any pictures from home can be sent to [admin@stethelbertsschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@stethelbertsschool.co.uk) so we can publish them on our website and Facebook page.

### Calling all children

If you would like to write a prayer then please send it to [admin@stethelbertsschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@stethelbertsschool.co.uk). Mr Marshall will collect these prayers and they can feature on our school website, Facebook page and School Newsletter each week.

### Devices to access Remote Learning

I understand it is challenging if you have limited WiFi, limited devices or only accessing the work on an iPad or phone. If you haven't got a device, or you have only a mobile phone to access the remote learning, then please contact me and I can add you to the list to borrow a School Chromebook. I cannot promise you will get one straight away but if you do get a Chromebook then I am asking you to sign an agreement and the devices get returned after lockdown.

### Free School Meal Vouchers

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals then you should have now received your voucher from 4<sup>th</sup> January until 22<sup>nd</sup> January via Wonde. Next week you will get your voucher via Endred. Please check your trash email box. These vouchers allow you to purchase food for your child/children at your local supermarket. If you haven't received your voucher or are having problems then please contact the school bursar Mrs Sturge from Tuesday.

### Attendance

We are keeping a record of who is online daily and who is in school. Please remember each morning to click the 'register - I'm here' on Google Classroom.

### Live Whole School Achievement Assembly

It was lovely to see so many of you on Google Meet today. Please join me every Friday at 2:30pm for our





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Star of the Week Achievement Assembly. Each class will have two Stars of the Week. One child for school learning and one child for Remote Learning.

Stay Safe, God Bless

Mr Marshall  
Headteacher

