

Parent Update - Wednesday 6th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. This is a difficult week and I appreciate your support and understanding (there have been a few really uplifting comments made by families this week – thank you – they've been much needed). We are essentially operating two schools at the moment, an on-site school and a remote school. I can assure you we will offer the very best we can, either in class or remotely, both are of equal importance.

Key worker places

We are now at capacity and can't accept anymore children in school. If you are parents of keyworkers who are working at home or have another person aged 16 or over, I would ask that you re-consider whether your child really needs to be in school. The more people in the building, the greater the risk to everyone. Drop off in the morning remains the same, all children should be in school by 8.55am. Hometime arrangements are the same as before the holidays (the change last night didn't work). As we are reduced in number, parents may all come through the gate at 2.55pm. (Please remember, masks on, stay apart, one adult per family).

Home learning

Our teachers have done an incredible job, to get our Google Classrooms up and running straight away. Please make sure you follow the instruction on the home learning page of the website and get your children online as soon as possible. There will be 3 lessons each day: Maths, English and one other subject which will vary. We expect children to access and submit learning each day. Please do this via Google Classroom (or Purple Mash). From now on, please don't send work via the contact@ email address as it is more difficult for staff to access and respond.

The home learning curriculum will match what is being taught in school, so it is essential that children are taking part daily. Whilst we won't provide online teaching, we will set up virtual meetings for the children at home with their teachers – this will begin next week. We will let you know the schedule for this as soon as it is organised.

Reading – as you know is the key to success in all learning. In addition to the 3 lessons per day we will provide you with additional resources to access for reading. We are currently looking at the best options.

If your child says they "don't like reading," it is either because they aren't confident or they haven't yet found what they enjoy. Please think outside the box if you can and make sure the subtitles are switched on any TV's at all times. (An anecdote – My nephew was a very poor reader at primary school and had lots of additional support. It was only when he started watching horse-racing on the TV and reading the betting tips in the newspaper that his confidence grew and he became a competent reader. I'm not advocating betting – just giving you an example).

With regards to devices at home – I know this is a challenge for some families. Google classroom can be accessed via ipads, tablets and laptops. It can also be

accessed if you plug a USB keyboard into your xbox or smart TV. Buying a keyboard is much more affordable solution if your family are sharing devices.

Free school meals - We've not yet had guidance about how these will be provided. The information will be shared as soon as we have it.

Welfare calls – These will begin next week. Please remember that the call might come from a private number.

Thanks for reading - I know there is a lot of information to share. Please continue to email school on contact@st-johnbosco.manchester.sch.uk with any general enquiries. Again, thank you for your patience and support, we are lucky to have such dedication and cooperation within our community.

With love and prayers,

Mrs Johnson
Headteacher

"Each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:" 1 Peter 4:10 ESV