



St Paul's Catholic Primary School

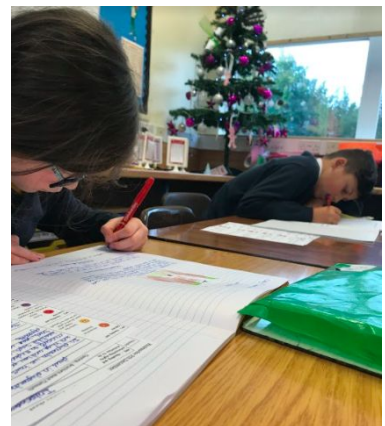
Dawn Potterton
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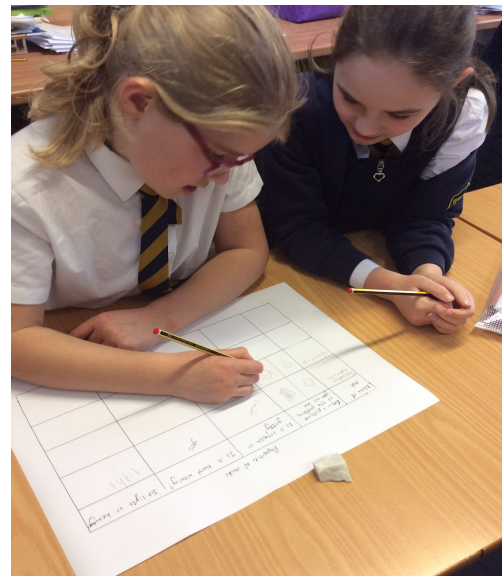
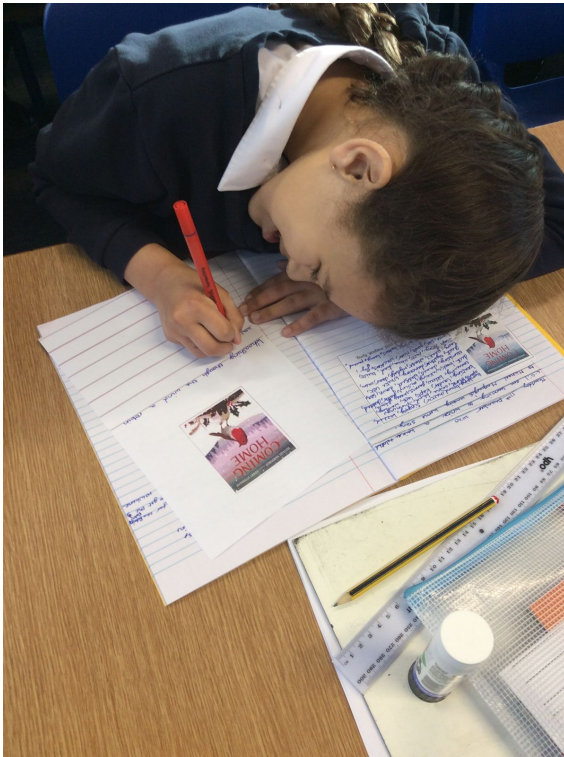
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18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We have come to the end of a long term and finish for the Christmas holidays today. Thank you for your support this term - the staff and I have been grateful to you all for your patience and good humour in the face of these difficult times. The children should be very proud of everything they have achieved this term. Here are some of the highlights of the end of term:







Positive cases over the Christmas holiday

Schools have been asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, in the event of one of the children or staff testing positive for COVID-19 after we finish for the Christmas holiday. Mrs Potterton will be on call for six days after teaching ends i.e. until the end of Christmas Eve to receive any communication from parents and staff regarding positive cases and to make contact with families to advise them of appropriate action.

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus in the first 48 hours after school closes for the Christmas holidays and subsequently tests positive, you must contact Mrs Potterton immediately on head@stpaulsplymouth.com Please do not use any other form of communication. Please title your email 'Positive case' so that it is more easily picked up.

Please **do not** contact the admin or teaching teams on any other email addresses, ClassDojo or Facebook. Messages on the school telephone line will not be picked up until 5th January so please **do not** leave messages on the school answerphone. No other members of the school team are expected to answer emails or messages over the Christmas holiday so it is vital that all communication is directed to the headteacher. Mrs Potterton will check her email account every day until midnight on Christmas Eve so you can be assured that your message will get through. Thank you for your support.

Reminder: DELT Shared Services Schools Challenge

This year we will be taking part in the Schools Challenge. Unfortunately it will not be possible to run the final mile on the Hoe, so we will be running it in school. Details of the running club will be sent out in the New Year. There is an £8 registration fee that can be paid directly to the organisation. You will receive a medal and water bottle. To register visit runplymouth.co.uk

Closing date for all entries is February 7th.

Food hampers

Thank you for your kind donations to the food hampers. A few members of the school GIFT team worked to put together ten hampers that have been donated to some of our families.





Christmas Mass at St Paul's Church

Message from Fr Petroc: We are in a situation we have not been in before, so all over the diocese we are finding our way and trying to guess what would be the best arrangements for Christmas masses this year. The masses this year will be:

Christmas Eve (Thursday 24 Dec.)

5pm - Mass of Christmas Eve at Saint Paul's

6pm - Mass of Christmas Eve at Holy Redeemer

Christmas Day (Friday 25 Dec.)

10am - Mass of Christmas Day at Holy Family

Bishop Mark has asked all the priests to remind everyone that Christmas Day has an Octave, which means that in church time Christmas Day lasts for eight days. The Octave exists to stress how important the feast is. It also means that if anyone because of Covid understandably doesn't want to gather for mass on Christmas Day or Eve when there might be many people, they can still go to their Christmas Day mass on any of the seven days following, up until and including 1 Jan, the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The masses of the Octave will be at 10am each day, except for the normal masses of Sunday.

This weekend's Gospel theme: Fourth Sunday of Advent: Say Yes to God

*"Mary said,
'Behold,
I am the
handmaid
of the Lord.
May it be
done to me
according to
Your word.'"*
Lk 1:38



*God of all, you sent the angel Gabriel as your messenger to Mary.
Help us to be your messengers in the world today.*

Amen.



On behalf of the staff and governors of St Paul's, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful start to the new year. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school on **Tuesday 5th January 2021:**

8.45 am for years 4-6 and siblings in R-3

8.55 am for years 1-3 and siblings in R

9.00 am for Reception pupils

Stay safe and well. God bless you all.

Kind regards

Dawn Potterton

Headteacher

head@stpaulsplymouth.com

'Let all that you do be done in love.'





COVID 19 symptoms and tests

Thank you for your continued support at what is proving to be a challenging time for many of our families.

It is vital that your child does **not** come to school if **they or someone in the family is symptomatic**. They might appear perfectly well but that does not mean that they are not carrying COVID 19. Isolate for 10 days (if symptomatic) and 14 days for **all other family members**. Inform us by phone or email and seek a test urgently. Please see full information in the box below:

Please remember that no adult or child must enter the school site if displaying any of the following symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Children who develop any one of these symptoms must be kept at home for 10 days and tested for COVID 19 as soon as possible. Family members must self isolate for 14 days. Please inform the school office immediately and advise us as to the result of the COVID test... It is vital that only **symptomatic children** should be tested.

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

you're worried about your symptoms , you're not sure what to do

Call 111 if you cannot get help online.

Do not go to places like a GP surgery, hospital or pharmacy.

Babies and children

Call 111 if you're worried about a baby or child under 5.



If your child seems very unwell, is getting worse or you think there's something seriously wrong, call 999.

Do not delay getting help if you're worried. Trust your instincts.

Get more advice about coronavirus in children.

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

Mobile test centres in Devon

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Barnstaple	Open	Open	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Open
Tiverton	Open	Open	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open
Torquay	Closed	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Launceston*	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Closed

There is also a drive through testing centre in Plymouth next to The Range, William Prance Road, Plymouth, PL6 5ZD but you must book a test online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

The government have said that schools should work with their suppliers to prepare meals or food parcels for pupils who are eligible for **benefits-related free school meals** and who are not in attendance for reasons related to **COVID19 including:** -

- are self-isolating
- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- are not attending as a result of local lockdown arrangements