



Monday 27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Update from Mrs Potterton:

I do hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. We are very much missing you all and are looking forward to the time when we can be back together as a school family. In the meantime, it has been a pleasure to speak to so many of you either at a safe distance at school or on the doorstep, on the phone, or by email over the past few weeks.

School partial closure update:

- We remain open **only** for children of critical workers or children identified as vulnerable:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

- Critical workers, please help us to plan provision by letting us know if your child requires care. We ask that you ring the school office **by 3pm** the day before.
- There is currently no directive from the Department for Education to re-open normally and we are not anticipating any change on this whilst we remain on lockdown. Neither do we have any information regarding when full reopening might happen or how it will be organised. As a leadership team, we are planning for every possible scenario so that we are ready for whatever happens. Please be assured that we will inform you immediately once we receive any instruction to reopen fully.

Staying in touch: We hope you are enjoying the regular updates on Facebook and Class Dojo! A huge thank you to Miss Hill for putting together our staff video - I'm sure you will agree that she did a wonderful job. You can see that our staff are born performers, especially our resident Teletubby! We hope it made you smile as much as us. Do keep an eye on our social media - Mrs Barnes has plenty of fun features lined up to keep you all entertained.

Update on home learning from Mrs Barnes:

We want to begin by reiterating the message that there are no expectations on the quantity of learning we expect families to be completing during this time. We simply want to ensure we provide enough materials so families can engage in learning at a level that is right for them. Please do not feel any pressure, your health and happiness are the most important things right now.

Our staff are currently busy preparing our third home learning pack for all pupils. These will be available to collect from school from **Wednesday 29th April**. Please contact your child's class teacher if you feel there are any other materials we can supply that would be of use.

It is wonderful to see so many children engaging with Google Classroom. Our staff are available each day 8.45-3.15 to offer support and feedback. Miss Strong has recently posted a video guide on ClassDojo to explain how to connect if you wish to but have not yet been able

or, again, email your child's class teacher who can offer support. We would be grateful if you would keep all messages to school hours.

The Department for Education has released the following guidance to try and offer support to you as parents during this difficult time. Follow the link for some helpful advice.

[Help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Advice and support for families

**PLYMOUTH
INFORMATION ADVICE
AND SUPPORT FOR SEND**



Dedicated Phone Support for Families

More than ever in these difficult and unprecedented times, we appreciate the challenges faced by parents with their children at home from school. PIAS (Plymouth Information, Advice and Support for SEND) have a team of dedicated facilitators skilled in a wide range of parenting programmes and behavioural strategies from birth to the teenage years. They are on hand to provide help, advice, support and a friendly ear from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday and 9am to 4.30pm on Friday.

Just call PIAS on 01752 258933 and select option 2.

Livewell Southwest has some great links through Options to support your mental health and wellbeing. <https://www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk/self-care-resources>

<https://www.mhe-sme.org/covid-19/>

If your child is struggling, the CalmZone at <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/> has some fantastic strategies to help you and your child(ren) through this difficult time.

The government has also produced some documents to provide support and advice.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance?utm_source=82d9543e-c269-4cd5-804f-f341cd48552f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing?utm_source=fa3d37ff-b04e-4a75-b247-6fc3a89d94b0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

As always, if you feel you require support or advice please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Mullett at smullett@stpaulsplymouth.com or Mrs Potterton at head@stpaulsplymouth.com

We are still working with the Multi-Agency support team and have access to other agencies throughout the city to ensure that all our families' needs are being met during this uncertain time.

Message from Miss Hill:

It is so important that during this time of uncertainty, we remember that prayer is powerful. Jesus taught the disciples to pray who in turn taught us to pray in many different ways. In school, we pray in a formal way during our Monday liturgy and at mass, we pray by singing our favourite hymns and we pray by having some quiet time with God. However you choose to pray at home, just remember that God is there for you. Here is a prayer that you may want to say over the next few weeks:



Remember you can also keep in touch with us via our social media sites.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsplym/?ref=bookmarks>



@StPaulsPlym

The school office is open **Monday to Friday 8.45am -3.15pm**. Please continue to contact us on **01752 365459** with any queries or concerns you might have. We are here to help.

Please stay safe and well. You are in our prayers.

With very best wishes

Mrs Dawn Potterton

Head Teacher

head@stpaulsplymouth.com