



## St Leonard's R.C. Primary School

Tunstall Village Road

Silksworth

Sunderland

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Website: [www.stleonardsprimary.org.uk](http://www.stleonardsprimary.org.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs S Robertson

04/01/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write to you tonight I have just watched the announcement from our Prime Minister informing us that the country is to enter another national lockdown and that all schools must close to most pupils. It is with a heavy heart that I let you know that here at St. Leonard's we will only be able to open to a limited amount of children as we love our school dearly and always prefer it to be full of happy children being educated by excellent, enthusiastic teachers. However, priority is and always will be the safety of our children, staff and community and therefore we must follow the government rules to stay at home.

Today was certainly not the way I like to start a new term as the planning and preparation that goes into getting the school ready is an immense task during ordinary times, let alone when school is closing to most pupils. As staffing was limited in school and all teachers and teaching assistants worked tirelessly at home to ensure that learning could continue remotely from tomorrow, I would like to thank you all for your understanding and patience and I assure you that I will always endeavour to communicate with parents/carers as soon as it is possible. All letters will be posted on the school website as due to the sheer volume of correspondence the text services sometimes become overloaded, please keep checking the website for up to date information.

### Key workers

The amount of parents who have requested places in school has more than tripled today and unfortunately we only have limited spaces. I would especially like to thank those parents who are keyworkers but who have found a way to keep your child at home and safe. By doing this you are supporting your fellow parents who do not have an alternative child care arrangement, so **thank you**. This is helping to keep our numbers down in school, thus reducing the potential spreading of coronavirus in our community.

Those parents whose children have a space this week have been informed and we will review the needs of all families throughout the week, therefore you may receive phone calls from the school office asking about your situation several times. This is so we can establish correctly the individual needs of each family. I thank you in advance for cooperating and working with the school to ensure that we keep the numbers in school under control as we try our best to be fair to every family.

If your circumstances change and one parent/carer is at home, please let us know as soon as you can so we can open places to those parents who really need it and have no other alternative. We must all work together to help and support our St. Leonard's family.

### Home/Online Learning

This will be a whole new way of teaching and learning for your child and our teachers tomorrow and so we are expecting a few hiccups along the way. The main message to you as parents/carers is that you must not worry or panic and support your child to remain calm if things don't quite go as planned. It is ok, we know that technology doesn't always work the way we expect it to first, second or even third time, it is ok.

Teachers will already have been in touch to ask if anyone has issues with technology e.g. no laptop in the household, no paper to write on etc. Please let your class teacher know via Class dojo and we will endeavour to help and support as soon as we can. We do have some laptops for those families who do not have access and tomorrow I will be working with BCCET and our IT technician to ensure that those are distributed as soon as possible.

Tomorrow, there will be two sessions where the teacher will be live to speak to the children via Teams. A list of do's and don'ts will be sent to you in the morning. The basic rules are:-



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- All video cameras must be off
- All microphones must be off
- An adult must be in the room at all times when the child is online
- The class teacher will not have their video camera on but you will be able to hear them.
- If your child has a question they must raise their hand icon only and the teacher will speak directly to them.
- Do not unmute or turn on the camera at any point unless instructed to by the class teacher
- The teacher may remove a child from the session if the rules are not adhered to.
- Teams is for education only and must not be used by parents or children as a 'chat' forum.

If you have any questions about the work, please contact the class teacher via Class dojo.

If you have any questions with online learning please communicate these via Class dojo to the class teacher who will help and support you through this new way of learning, it may be frustrating at first but I ask you to be patient as it is new to us all.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that each and every one of our St. Leonard's families are in our daily prayers as we pray for patience, tolerance, compassion and hope in this very challenging time. Together we will get through this.

Stay at home, Stay safe and God bless

Mrs S Robertson