



St Leonard's R.C. Primary School

Tunstall Village Road

Silksworth

Sunderland

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Website: www.stleonardsprimary.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Robertson

07/01/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has certainly been a very challenging week so far and I'd like to give you an update as to where we are with regard laptops and technology at home.

As you know we have had to move the whole school to online learning from Tuesday with less than 12 hours notice and this has put an incredible amount of pressure onto teaching staff, for whom this is a brand new way of teaching, the children as it is a new way of learning and parents/carers as it is a new way of home learning.

We totally appreciate that it is difficult for all and so I would ask you all to be kind to yourselves and not to put too much pressure on yourselves or the children or worry too much if there are teething problems (after all this is technology we are dealing with, which is amazing when it works and the most frustrating when it doesn't). Be rest assured the school is here to help and support as much as possible.

We have applied for our allocation of laptops through the government and are awaiting a response from them. We have applied through the 'laptops for kids' campaign and are waiting to hear from them and we are expecting a delivery of our first instalment of laptops from Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust tomorrow, with another expected, hopefully, by the middle of next week. As soon as we have them we will contact families to come and collect them from school.

It has been wonderful to hear from the teachers just how many children are engaging with the online lessons and handing in their work. Teachers are available to answer your queries throughout the day via Class dojo as much as possible.

Our teachers are still coming into school on a rota basis and therefore are supporting Key worker children in their online learning as well as delivering lessons for their own classes. On these days, staff will not be able to answer all queries immediately but will endeavour to help and support when they can. So I ask you to be kind and courteous to the teachers when messaging and they will get back to you as soon as they can. Several of our teachers are parents too and so when working from home they are in exactly the same position as many of you and are having to juggle their work commitments and their own children's online learning too.

I think the message I am trying to get across is that we are all in this together, we need to pull together as a St. Leonard's family, be kind and gentle to each other, be patient, tolerant and supportive.

Again, I would like to reiterate if you can keep your child at home and engage in the home learning this will help to reduce the spread of coronavirus in our community. We have tried to accommodate as many parents as possible and have now started a waiting list as all bubbles are full. If you have any changes in circumstances and you no longer require a place, please get in touch so that we can help out more families in need.

"... limiting attendance is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households. We have resisted limiting attendance at schools and colleges until now, but in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce contacts outside households wherever possible." Quoted from a letter to headteachers from the DFE.

Tomorrow I will be in contact with all those Key worker parents whose child has been offered a place in a bubble with more information on protocols in school from next week.



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I would like to share with you this translation of the prayer Pope Francis recited on March 11th asking Mary to protect Italy and the world during the Covid-19 pandemic

O Mary,

you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People,

know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,

who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.

Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin

Stay safe and God bless

Mrs S Robertson