



Bryn St Peter's of E Primary School February 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the announcement that we will not be returning to fully opened schools before the 8th March, I wanted to get in touch to help things run as smoothly as possible until then. School will remain open for critical worker's children and vulnerable children in the meantime. Many of you have been asking what that means.

Vulnerable children include:

- Children known to Social Care
- Pupils with Education and Health Care Plans
- Children in receipt of Early Years Targeted Individual Support (TIS)
- And those individuals who we have identified as being particularly in need - children who are recently bereaved, struggling with recent family challenges.

Of course, much of this is private and confidential, so we would not consider discussing any individual cases with another parent, but I ask you to consider that we are taking care of our school community in the best way that we can, and trying to identify which families need most help.

We would love to have all the children back in school, as soon as possible. We know that they miss their friends and teachers and are looking forward to the time when we are all back.

We have been as fair as we can be in offering places, based on the information we have been given, and following the guidelines given to us by the government. We can only go on the honesty of our families.

To those with children who are home schooling:

Thank you to all those who are participating in the school work being set. The government have stipulated that we must provide 3 hours of work a day for those in key stage 1, and 4 hours of work a day for children in key stage 2. We realise that this is taking its toll on many of you. Home schooling is a real challenge and we thank you for all you are doing to maintain the school curriculum at home. It will make transitioning back to school easier, when the time comes.

Our staff are working really hard, to offer activities that are do-able at home and support you and your child. It has doubled an already packed workload to offer learning in school and create the home learning packages to send home. As we are a small school we do not have extra staff to support 'live' teaching throughout the day, but are endeavouring to vary the activities as much as possible. We are also aware that people like to 'hop on' at different times, so live teaching would not suit everyone.

We have had many messages of appreciation, and are enjoying the children's involvement and this keeps us going in school.

Downall Green Road, Wigan WN4 0DL

Tel: 01942 204041

Email: enquiries@ashtonsaintpeters.wigan.sch.uk

Website: www.brynsaintpeters.co.uk

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Together with God, building our future

Teachers have asked that I pass on a few messages, which would really help things to run smoothly and support the children with their learning:

- Please follow all the work that is being offered to your child, as they will then have no 'gaps' when they return to school.
Try and get your child into the same routine as they have in school. If they complete the maths for instance in maths time, their teacher is on hand to support them. The RWinc videos - encourage your children to view them lots of times. The more they see them/work on them the more they will remember the sounds/words. (We go over and over sounds in school - It helps it to 'stick'). Children like repetition - think about how they love watching the same programmes over and over again.
- Please return your work so the teacher can mark it, comment on it and help if there are any mistakes. A comment simply saying it has been completed isn't helpful. The teacher cannot interact and encourage your child.
- Please send the work on the day it is completed, as it is too much for the teachers to mark, if they receive it all at the end of the week
- If your child is stuck, encourage them to watch the teaching video again (in class any explanation would be repeated)
- If you are taking a photo of work, please make it's a good quality picture, so we can see it clearly to mark it in school.
- It's better to work in pen as we can see it more clearly on the pictures

We know, from experience that some days can be better than others. Please be assured that you are doing an incredible job!

If you need any top tips/tricks of the trade to help with motivation or behaviour, get in touch and we will try to help.

If your child usually receives means tested free school meals, you should have received a voucher if they are at home with you. If you haven't received it yet, again get in touch.

We understand that many of you have undergone a change in circumstances. If you feel that your child may be eligible for free school meals, please complete the application form on Spider and we will check for you.

It is a difficult time for everyone at the moment. During the last lockdown we had the warmth of Spring and Summer and could enjoy the outdoors. Many people are trying to juggle and, of course we are missing our friends and family. It can be very frustrating. It is so important to remember we are all facing challenges and we need to continue to support each other the best we can. If we can help we will - just ask!

Finally, there are no words that can begin to capture the magnitude of their loss, but I hope you can hold two of our families in school in your hearts and prayers.

Both lost a beloved parent in January: The Williams Family, who said goodbye to dad, Dave and the Dunne family to mum, Michelle. Our thoughts are with you.

Please be kind to yourselves and to others.

Mrs Alcock