



St. Philip's
RC Primary School

8th January 2021

Dear Families,

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding regarding the difficult decisions that have been made this week. I know that some of you are disappointed that your children are unable to return. We can all point to different statements relating to government guidance, but it is only individual schools and head teachers who know what they can safely and practically provide. I am satisfied that we have done all we can to balance the needs of families, with the resources available to us, and will continue to support your children in the best way that we can.

In this letter, I would like to provide some reassurances relating to home learning. This week, I have had letters from parents stating that they would be unable to start home learning until later in the day. I have had other requests for paper-based resources and all lessons to be live-streamed. You will therefore appreciate, that it is impossible to provide for every requirement. Instead, we aim to provide an inclusive approach that takes in to consideration the pressures that our families face, whilst satisfying the demands placed on us by the Department of Education.

We have held meetings throughout the week and have established some key priorities with regard to home learning:

1) Flexibility

We will issue a timetable for each day that parents can follow precisely if they so wish. This timetable will show when the virtual sessions are being hosted and the subjects being covered. However, if you are unable to start home learning until later in the day, or decide to group work for later in the week, resources will remain available and families can establish their own routines. If this is the case, the children will only miss the interactive Zoom sessions.

2) Accessibility

In primary schools, computers are not the only answer to high quality home learning. Children take great pride in their exercise books; this is why we have sent them home. The hope is that this will help them to focus and motivate them to produce the best work that they can. It is beneficial for pupils to engage in Google Classroom, but this can be accessed through mobile devices, **Xbox or PlayStation**. The resources for lessons will be posted on Google Classroom/Tapestry each day, but children will complete the work in their books. As a last resort, if resources cannot be accessed online, paper packs can be produced and collected from school.

3) Communication/Support

Staff are available via Tapestry (Nur/Rec) and Google Chat. However, if this is not an option, direct email addresses are shared within this letter. You can also request a call from a member of staff, or contact our school office as normal.

All live Zoom sessions must be attended by a second member of staff for safeguarding reasons. This has to be timetabled carefully, as staff are not always available. The unexpected absence of staff may result in virtual lessons being cancelled at short notice. If this is the case, we apologise in advance.

Timetables

As discussed previously, these should be seen as a guide and will contain the times for the interactive Zoom sessions throughout the week. They will be posted on Tapestry and Google Classroom on a Sunday evening. They will also be emailed to parents using our school system. Resources will then be posted each day, and as mentioned previously, work will be completed in books. This should remove the need for the children to have access to a laptop at all times.

Headteacher: Mr. J. Barrett BA HONS, PGCE, NPOH

St. Philip's RC Primary School, Cavendish Road, Salford, M7 4WP

0161 792 4595

stphilips.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk

@stphilipsrc

www.stphilipsrcprimary.com



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It also allows them to use the Xbox/PlayStation or other devices if needed.

Finally, I accept that this way of learning is less than ideal, but we are in a pandemic and it is the very best we can offer. I continue to receive a large number of emails each day from parents seeking a place, I have tried to respond to as many of them as I can, or have asked my office team to be in contact with you. I apologise if any messages have been missed, it would never be my intention to ignore emails from parents. I will keep a list of the requests that have been made, but I now need to focus more attention on making our 'blended' offer work effectively.

I would be grateful if you could afford us some time over the weekend, to gather our thoughts, after what has been another incredibly challenging week. I do not expect things to run perfectly smoothly at first, but we will do the best we can to support all of our children.

Yours sincerely



Mr. J. Barrett

Headteacher

New Google Codes and Staff Contact Information

When contacting the class teacher, please send your emails to **both** members of staff listed.

	Google Code	Link to Google Classroom	Staff Email
Year 1	qrytfln	https://classroom.google.com/c/MjUwNDkwOTUwNTAz?cjc=qrytfln	ruth.mcnamara@salford.gov.uk jade.sharrock@salford.gov.uk
Year 2	qkhvy3d	https://classroom.google.com/c/MjUwNDk3NDI3NTEy?cjc=qkhvy3d	karen.welsh@salford.gov.uk siobhan.ryman@salford.gov.uk
Year 3	3bx2a2k	https://classroom.google.com/c/MjUwNDk3NDI3Mzky?cjc=3bx2a2k	abby.kildunne@salford.gov.uk
Year 4	5sr45bh	https://classroom.google.com/c/MjUwNDg2ODY1NDM4?cjc=5sr45bh	catherine.lavelle2@salford.gov.uk will.keane@salford.gov.uk
Year 5	tjuuwjw	https://classroom.google.com/c/MjUwNDg2ODY1MjUw?cjc=tjuuwjw	lynne.moore@salford.gov.uk j.taylor@salford.gov.uk
Year 6	pdsrbhb	https://classroom.google.com/c/MjUwNDg2ODY1MTQz?cjc=pdsrbhb	john.cooper@salford.gov.uk gavin.marshall@salford.gov.uk
Nursery		Tapestry	lauren.flynn@salford.gov.uk caroline.evans@salford.gov.uk jeanette.kemp@salford.gov.uk
Reception		Tapestry	laura.guest@salford.gov.uk carrie.clarke@salford.gov.uk