



Serve - Learn - Challenge - Love

Holy Trinity CE Academy Rothwell

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Co-CEO: Mrs Helen Pratten

Principal: Mr D Foulke

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been two weeks since we partially closed. This has been a very busy time for school staff. Each week we remain open to the children of Key Workers and some other pupils and each week we are posting work on Tapestry and Seesaw providing daily activities and feedback. We are keeping school open over Easter for Key Worker pupils and intend to continue posting work as we know that routine at this time is important. We will also continue to provide 'grab bags' for Free School Meal pupils who have been collecting these over Easter (not Good Friday/Easter Monday).

We are operating a skeleton staff in school as we know that the fewer children attending school the safer it is. We limit the potential spread of Covid-19 by keeping numbers small. In school we are employing social distancing and teaching pupils in groups no larger than 10. Staff in school are ensuring good hygiene and housekeeping as well as helping pupils complete work and activities. It is therefore possible that when your child's class teacher is in school they are not able to respond to messages in the same way that they would do if they were working at home. When staff are in school other members of the team are monitoring their Seesaw and Tapestry accounts for them.

Home learning is set on Tapestry for Reception and Seesaw for Y1-6. This is a safe way for children to learn as the accounts can only be accessed by you and by school staff and you will only get to view your own child's learning. We are really proud of the way that the vast majority of our pupils are engaging with work through Tapestry and Seesaw. However, there is still a small minority of pupils still not accessing work. We will contact you directly as we need every child engaged with home learning as the current closure is not likely to end anytime soon.

Some parents have requested printed packs of work. This is not possible. We have to minimise travel and staff numbers in school. The message is stay home, protect the NHS and save lives. We don't want staff to have to make unnecessary trips to school, we don't want too many staff in school at one time and we don't want to put you at risk by asking you to come and collect work. Once you've used Tapestry or Seesaw it is easy.

Staff are currently working a 3-week rotation so that they are in school one week in every 3 weeks. These teams are discreet and have not had physical contact with members of another team. We know that for the vast majority of children Covid-19 is a mild illness. However, for some adults it is not. Like all Key workers, the staff in school are putting their own health at risk as well as the health of their families by coming into work. They are doing this to support our Key Workers and other children and I am immensely proud of them all. They are making a difference to the nation's fight against Covid-19.

The national voucher system for Free School Meal Pupils will be up and running from WB 20.4.20 and I would like to thank Mrs Shenton and Mrs Lord for their time setting this up.



We have also had official confirmation that all testing will not take place this year. This includes EYFS assessments, the phonics screening check, Y2 and Y6 SATs and the new Y4 times table check. We know that pupils have worked hard for these and we were predicting our best ever results this year. Please remember that the work children have done this year is more than a test. They have the skills and knowledge for the next stage of their education thanks to the hard work of staff and pupils this academic year and this continues now with home learning.

We will be reviewing all aspects of our provision over the next 2 weeks but ask that you:

- 1) Make sure you are using Tapestry (Reception parents/carers) and Seesaw (Y1-6). We are checking and have to get you all working.
- 2) You provide Mrs Shenton with an email address if you are the parent/carer of a FSM pupil and you all provide her with any contact information if you change your number etc.
- 3) You support staff, who like many key workers are working through Easter, and are going above and beyond to keep pupils engaged in learning
- 4) You stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. We are here for you throughout this and will be here for you when this comes to an end.

I would like to thank you all for your support at this unprecedented time. Nobody could have foreseen the way this year has panned out. I know that together we are stronger and together we will help each other get through this.

Yours sincerely

D. Foulke

Principal