

love ♥ learn 📖 serve ✝️

'LET US CONSIDER HOW WE MAY SPUR ONE ANOTHER ON TOWARD LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS.' HEBREWS 10:24

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The announcement by the Prime Minister last evening gave schools and parents very little notice and I know this will have been upsetting for many of you, and caused disruption regarding childcare and work. I would like to thank you for your understanding today.

Further to my last letter, I am writing to update you on our plans for remote learning and the childcare provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable children, e.g. those with an EHCP.

This childcare is an important service and will make a huge difference to parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus and EU transition response, including those who work in social care and other key sectors outlined in the government guidance.

A Google form was sent this morning for parents to register for a place in our childcare provision. If your child is allocated a place you will receive a confirmation email later today. **In order to manage the quality of provision, we are asking that children attend the childcare provision every day for full day sessions.**

The whole staff team has been in school today working together so that the childcare and remote learning can begin without further delay tomorrow on **Wednesday 6th January**. I would like to assure parents and carers that we are dedicated to maintaining a high quality educational experience with a focus on children's progress and well-being.

The childcare provision in school will mirror a normal school day as much as possible. Class teachers will continue teaching their usual classes, both in school and remotely. The learning



opportunities for children in school will match that of those at home. The school day will begin at 08:30 for Year 5 & 6 and end at 15:15 and begin at 08:45 and end at 15:30 for Reception, KS1 and Year 3 & 4. The usual drop off and pick up procedures will remain unchanged. More details about the childcare provision will be included in the confirmation email.

For children who will be carrying out their learning at home, I would like to offer a few points of reassurance. At St. Helen's we have had a lot of practice now with remote learning and will do our utmost to provide a positive and productive experience for all children. We would like children to have the daily routine and reassurance of 'seeing' their teachers and friends but without the pressure or amount of screen time involved with replicating a full timetable. Therefore in most cases the day will be split between online learning and independent learning projects which we believe is the happiest balance for both children and parents.

A plan for home learning and a suggested timetable will be shared tomorrow morning by teachers on Seesaw or Tapestry. **It is very important that all children participate in their learning at home every day, unless they are unwell, in which case parents should contact the school as with a normal absence.**

If you have any concerns about computer access, we are here to help. Please get in touch using the admin email address (rather than contacting the class teacher directly on Seesaw or Tapestry) so that we can work to find a solution as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer wrap around care at this time. If you have questions or concerns about this please contact the school office.

We are awaiting updated guidance about Free School Meal provision and will be in touch as soon as possible. We would like to encourage as many children as possible to have a school lunch if attending the childcare provision. Delicious hot meals will be served and the menu is available on School Money. Please book in advance for the whole week as per usual.

At this difficult time we welcome the trust's new **Social Inclusion Team** who will be based in school one day per week. The team will work with schools to support families and staff, holding meetings and providing signposting to appropriate support agencies. A letter detailing the role of the Social Inclusion Team will be coming to you very soon.

I know that after a difficult year, this latest announcement has caused further disruption for families. However with cases rising, we must work together to keep our community safe.

Assuring you of my best attention at all times,



Mrs Claire Lewis
Headteacher