

The St Paul's Post

17th April 2020

As I am writing this, I am hoping that you are all continuing to stay well and safe in these difficult times. You are never far from my thoughts and we, as a school, are doing as much as we can!

Following this week's announcements that schools will remain open **ONLY** for those pupils who are vulnerable and those of keyworkers for the next 3 weeks, I felt it was a good time to address some of the things that I know you will be worrying about and questions you may have. I hope that I can answer these here, but if not please do email me on Kira.Nicholls@spaldingstpauls-cit.co.uk and I will get back to you within the day, wherever possible.



Free School Meals/ Vouchers

We have registered the school for the National Voucher Scheme and have placed two orders with the team. This is currently displaying that the monies have been paid for the vouchers, we are just waiting for the vouchers to be released to us. IF we have not had a response and the vouchers have not been released by Monday 20th, we will supply you with Sainsbury's vouchers again and get them out to you swiftly. We are as frustrated as you at the time it has taken to get this far and hope they are working just as hard to get them out to you and us. IF you requested these to be sent direct to your email address, then please keep checking your **SPAM or JUNK folders** as the address they are coming from will be new to your inbox.

Eligibility for Free School Meals is easy to check and would not only mean some extra money for current daily meals, it will also trigger additional "Pupil Premium" funding to help your child "catch up" after such a long break from school and lessons. Please check your eligibility by going onto the website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. Eligibility is agreed if you get any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **income-based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- **income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- support under **Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- the guaranteed element of **Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- **Universal Credit** - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

IF your child is in Reception Y1 or Y2, you STILL NEED TO APPLY for this, even if your child has Universal Infant Free School Meals in school! Give it a try- it s not a hard process.



School Trips/ Visitors and Visits planned for the rest of the school year.



The vast majority of trips, visits and collective gatherings etc that were planned for the rest of this academic year have been CANCELLED due to the current restrictions- including our long-awaited Y6 PGL Residential Trip. Even when we open again, there will be a period of time where it will be essential to observe the necessary social distancing rules etc, which would be especially challenging whilst travelling and also whilst doing activities. We have to put the safety of staff and pupils first. If you wish to see the confirmation of these cancellations, these are on our new website on the Calendar tab.

<https://www.spaldingstpauls-cit.co.uk/web>. Keep up to date by using the website when you can!



Learning Continued....

During the last two weeks, staff have been adding a few activities on their padlets, but have also been mindful that it has been the school Easter holiday. We have been keen to allow staff time to have a break to come to terms with what has happened to our normal practices, as well as giving our pupils time to emotionally heal a little.

New learning activities will start again on Monday 20th April, through the **Year Group Padlets**, as well as activities on **Facebook and our Twitter Pages**. Please LIKE our pages for the updates!

In addition to this, we have found out that as of and from Monday 20th April onwards, the **BBC Bitesize** website will also be releasing daily lessons for every year group! These will be linked to the National Curriculum and will support your child's skills and understanding across a range of subjects!

I am in the process of developing plans to support your child's reading during the next three weeks and will let everyone know on Monday, once the logistics have been worked out! READING and MATHS, (particularly additional times-tables practice in KS2) are essential skills to keep going. There are a wealth of e-books on the internet and I have my training booked to release "myON" reading resource too. Reading to your children and keeping them interested in books is also so important.

I know, from my own experience of working a lot at home, that paper supplies etc will be dwindling in your homes too. We will be putting together some resource packs of paper, pencils etc and these will be available to collect from school. Please send me an email or a private message via our Facebook Page to order a pack so that we have enough for everyone that needs them. There is no shame in asking for resources- we are ALL having to find new ways of working and learning- home-learning has never been as important as it is now. We are aware that many homes do not have printers etc and so hope that activities can be taken from what we provide on the internet and then completed on paper. There is no right or wrong way- we just want to help if stocks are running low for you!

I will let you all know, individually, when a collection date and time can be confirmed. We need to make sure that minimal people approach the school office at any given time!

Children's Mindfulness Apps



There are lots of mindfulness apps out there to help you become more mindful, and many of these apps are designed specifically for children. Here's a list of some apps, which can help children deal with anxiety and stress and become more mindful:

1. MindYeti	2. Breathe, Think, Do Sesame
3. Calm	4. DreamyKid



5. Headspace: Guided Meditation and Mindfulness	6. Kids Yoga Deck
7. Stop, Breathe, and Think Kids	8. Breathing Bubbles
9. Smiling Mind	10. Positive Penguins
11. Calm Counter	12. Emotionary
13. Take a Chill	14. Chill Outz
15. Super Stretch Yoga	16. Relax Melodies

Nursery and Reception Places for September 2020

Today saw the release of the first offers for Reception places for September 2020. We still have a few places left, so if you know of anyone coming into the area or that needs a place in a forward-thinking school, please let them know! They will need to contact LCC School Admissions on <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions>

OR

<https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

Our new Reception teacher, Mrs Emma Ward is starting on Monday 20th April and is already planning ahead for the next terms and new academic year! She is very keen to meet everyone, especially the children, and will be planning the "Welcome" meetings for new parents to the school for the last term of this academic year.

We also want to highlight the fact that we are still in a position to take **applications for our Nursery for September 2020**. If you know of anyone that is eligible for a 2yr old place, a 15hr 3 or 4yr old place or eligible for an extended 30hour place, please ask them to email me on Kira.Nicholls@spaldingstpauls-cit.co.uk and I will direct them to an application form!

I am happy to report to you that all of the staff at St Paul's are currently fit and healthy and are missing everyone at school. Life feels very strange not being with the children though!

Make sure you all stay safe and we can enjoy coming together as soon as we can!

Take care of each other!



Miss Nicholls & Barney
Headteacher



Telephone: 01775 723326

Queens Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2JQ
E-mail: enquiries@spaldingstpauls-cit.co.uk
Headteacher: Miss Kira Nicholls
Assistant Headteacher: Miss Katie James

Website: www.spaldingstpauls.org.uk