



Pauntley Church of England Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 29th January 2021



Our termly Value: Courage

*“Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid,
neither be thou dismayed, God is with thee.*

Joshua 1:9

Dear Parents/Carers

Would you believe it is now week 4 of lockdown and we have two weeks until half term!

Although there is not an awful lot I can talk about at present I wanted to take time to share our expectations as a school on those of you that are trying to juggle home learning with work, family life and all of the other stresses and strains that this pandemic has brought.

As a school we have been required by the department for Education to set a minimum of 3 hours work for Key Stage 1 and 4 hours for Key Stage 2. And as always, we strive to give a range of experiences; recognise that all children learn in different ways and therefore share other resources and events as and when they come to us to supplement our initial remote learning offer.

HOWEVER, and this is key, the expectation from us as a school is to ensure that children are happy and healthy (both mentally and physically). I know there are days that families are able to work through the work and follow a rigid timetable; there are days when families are finding moments throughout the day here and there and only partially completing work and then there are those times when no matter how hard you try very little gets done. To reassure you, everyone has these moments; my advice would be to take each day as it comes. If you can only do a little reading and practise number bonds/times tables that is fine. There is no harm in spending time baking cakes, playing in the garden, doing crafts and going for walks – all are valuable activities and can help to break up the day and give you and your children the time to relax.

So, yes we would love you to complete all the activities as often as possible but we are realistic that life is challenging and we would not want any of our families to feel under pressure and rather you do what is best to ensure you and your children stay healthy. Please feel free to contact us if this is the case and, where we can, we will help.

For us, the most important part of the week is to join the Zoom calls as often as possible – this is a great way to stay in touch with class teachers and friends. Also, please do send in work, firstly it allows the teacher to give feedback, support and further challenge if necessary and most importantly celebrate the amazing things you are doing. We would love to see as much as possible but even once a week would be great.

This week seems to have been particularly hard and I know that the staff cannot wait to get back to doing the job they love which involves full classes filled with fun, laughter and brilliant learning!

Mr T Larner
Headteacher

Self-testing for Staff

As some of you might have heard on the news, Lateral Flow Tests have been made available for regular staff testing in Primary Schools. This is intended to identify positive cases of coronavirus from staff who are asymptomatic. (1 in 3 people with Covid-19 don't have any symptoms).

Staff began testing this week. These will then be taken twice weekly. (Wednesday and Sunday evenings) The Department for Education do not have plans currently for the regular testing of Primary School children.

Last week, we have accessed two training sessions with the Department for Education and Public Health to ensure our school administers the tests in line with the guidance.

If a staff member tests positive following testing using a Lateral Flow Test, they then need to have this confirmed by taking a PCR test (taken at a drive through test centre) with results normally available within 48 hours. The safety of our school community is extremely important to us, therefore we would take these actions should a member of staff have a positive Lateral Flow Test:

- The school would temporarily close immediately.
- Staff member would have a PCR test.
- Member of staff's PCR test is negative – the school would open the following day after confirmation of the negative result.
- Member of staff's PCR test is positive – the school would remain closed and all staff and children would need to isolate for 10 days.

Currently, this ONLY applies to children who are attending school.

