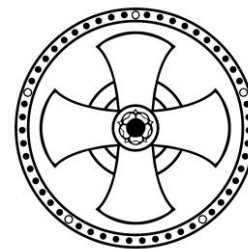




OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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January 8th 2021

Re: Review of First Week – Updates Moving Forward.

Dear Parents and Carers

As you'd expect, I've got some updates for you all as we move into the second week of remote learning, home learning and in school provision.

The first update is regarding Breakfast Club. Despite my best intentions, I'm afraid I cannot operate a breakfast club until further notice. This is due to lack of staffing available. As soon as this changes, I will let you know.

Huge thanks to you for your support of the children this week and your messages and feedback for staff which has been dutifully passed on. As I outlined earlier in the week, in order to sustain remote and home learning provision for what will undoubtedly be a long period, staff will continue to be in touch with you with Zoom links, YouTube links and wider resources to support the children whilst they are at home. There will continue to be face to face contact daily with teachers so that we can adapt quickly with any difficulties that arise. Please also remember that should your child(ren) not be able to access the learning remotely, there are adequate learning packs at school that you can request by phoning the school office. These packs will provide support in English and Maths skills and there are enough resources there to last until February half term.

As you would imagine, I have been contacted by some parents requesting that I widen the school provision to include more children. Some of you will also be aware that the Secretary of State has issued guidance around when parents can request that children return to school. Leaving all politics aside and with a weathered acknowledgement of the Prime Minister's repeated statements that 'all schools are safe', the scientific evidence does point to the fact that virus is spread by social contact. It would also seem to be accurate to suggest that previous lockdowns have failed to curb infection rates adequately, perhaps because these social contacts have not been reduced enough. Without going into details of my staffing, I can tell you that I do not have all my staff at my disposal because of absence. I am currently at capacity but am dedicated to reviewing provision as my staffing improves. I know you'll understand that the more children I have in school, the greater the risk to those children and staff and the greater the likelihood of further absence that will impact on provision for everyone. Thank you for your support when I have to disappoint those requests. This isn't done lightly or without an understanding of what you're dealing with.

As far as you can, please enjoy your weekend and we'll go again next week. Thanks again for everything that you're doing at home.

With warm wishes,

Paul Barber
Headteacher

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