

Ref: RV/hw

22 January 2021

Dear Parents



As we end our third week of the term, I just wanted to thank you for all you are doing in supporting our youngsters during lockdown. We are delighted with our pupils and their focus on their remote learning. The staff are working really hard to provide the best quality of learning possible, and have been really impressed with the engagement of the vast majority of our pupils.

Thank you for the many messages of support; we've had a task force of staff making pastoral calls in support of those pupils who have had barriers to home learning. They have made over 2000 calls over the last 2 weeks! Testing of staff has continued this week and we have supported our primary colleagues; testing their staff where requested. It does appear that this period of lockdown could extend beyond half-term. To support pupils we have attached some well-being tips below. It is normal for us all to have ups and downs, but it is beneficial for our children to have a routine. A little exercise and some time being creative and having fun is just as important as school work.

On Wednesday the Department of Education briefed schools stating that; *Limiting attendance at schools and colleges helps to support the reduction in the overall number of social contacts in our communities, which is a vital intervention in the context of current very high transmission rates.* They said that, while *Schools should continue to encourage attendance of those vulnerable children and children of critical workers who need to be in school.* They pointed out that aggregate attendance levels nationally was 5% in secondary schools and 20% in primary schools. Currently our attendance level at Blessed Trinity far exceeds this. Places are available for pupils classed as vulnerable and children of critical workers, these should be accessed as a last resort. As I pointed out last week, we have reached a point where we simply do not have the staff to supervise the children in school safely, whilst providing high quality live learning for the children at home. Parents requesting places will be prioritised according to vulnerability and the nature of their key worker roles. Children should only come to school if it is absolutely necessary. We know it can be hard at home to complete home learning, but this is not a reason to send your child to school; we will do everything we can to support you. If you have any further questions, please contact Jo McCue on jmccue@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Home Learning

We have worked incredibly hard in response to the closure of schools in order to try and maintain the best possible quality of education for all of our pupils despite the difficult circumstances. For us to continue making improvements we would appreciate some feedback on your experience of school since we began home learning in January. Please click on the below link to complete a survey. Thank you in advance for taking the time to do this.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xfsmUvH8MU6AWufP-sjOKtu70fPwM-5Lv3VDDuEei-hUQVdZSDFDRU84RIBVT1M3QldBVjIPME1WNy4u>

I hope that you have an enjoyable weekend. Please let us know if you require any assistance at all. Thanks again for your patience and support

Yours sincerely

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Headteacher

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Make sure everything you read about the virus is factual - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

You absolutely **MUST** follow Government guidelines **EVERY DAY** no exceptions.
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

You should try to do at least one of these every day so that it becomes part of your routine 😊

7 Tips for Staying Healthy in Lockdown 3



Useful Websites

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/coronavirus-and-mental-health/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/youth-mental-health/>
<https://www.kooth.com>

1
2
3

Stay Positive. Make a note of one thing each day that you have achieved or are proud of. If you struggle to do this, try again the next day. Logging into **Skills Builder** and completing the levels will help you focus on this.

Go through the **photos** on your phone and put them into albums. It is great to look back on **memories**.

There are some websites where you can get **free prints** of photos every month. You only have to pay for postage. **Ask** your parents if you/ they can sign up. Make sure you/ they read the t's & c's

You could get prints of all your favourite photos and make a collage or picture.

4

Keep in touch with people. Message someone you miss or send them a funny picture of a memory you have together.

Ask people how they are and if you are worried about them, tell an adult or someone you think might be able to help.

5

Get **organised**. Sort out your school work. If your work is on a device, create a folder for each subject and put the lesson resources and your work into the folders.

6

Keep active. Keep to a normal eating and sleeping routine. This will help boost your immune system too <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/>. But remember, it is ok to **have bad days too**. Just make sure you talk to someone about how you feel and try to focus on something that will make your next day better.

7

What is your **Happy Place**? Playing football with your friends? Sunbathing on holiday? Dancing? Singing? Being kind and helping people? Watching a game at Turf Moor?

When you're feeling fed up, close your eyes and think of that Happy Place. You will get to do all these things again in the future. We just need to stay at home again and stay safe for now.