



Spring 1
February 2021/ Luke 2: 22-40
"The presentation of the Lord"

The Saint Raphael's News



*** CRITICAL WORKER AND VULNERABLE PLACES AT SCHOOL ***

Please read the attached letter regarding Critical Worker and Vulnerable Places at school. We have been asked to send this communication to all parents and carers by the School's Governing Board.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXTENSION OF LOCKDOWN PERIOD: As you will all be aware the Government announced that schools would not re-open to the wider pupil community until March 8th at the earliest. We are obviously all disappointed that we will not all be back together sooner, but we do appreciate that the health and safety of everyone has to be the priority.

Government have pledged to allow 2 weeks' notice ahead of any wider opening. Once any announcements are made, usually at the Government Press Conferences, and associated guidance has been reviewed we will write to you with further details.

HOMELEARNING: The home learning provision using Tapestry and Seesaw is producing good results from the children and they are posting and sharing great activities. Thank you for your support with this. As you are aware the teachers are posting work and can then respond to the children's work with comments and/or next steps. This can be in the form of a written message or a video message with the teaching staff on their computers during the school day to help any child who posts a question.

By offering support in this way, staff are available to support children throughout the day and are accessible during school hours. This gives greater flexibility for you at home and allows the children to seek support when needed and for the teachers to match the help to the child's needs. The videos posted can be watched at any time to reinforce learning. We are also working hard to ensure that the work at home matches the work in school to ensure a smooth transition when we are able to return fully in the future.

As always please let us know of any issues with the home learning so that we can look for solutions. During the half term holiday there will not be any home learning activities posted. Additionally, Monday, 22nd February school is a staff INSET Day and therefore work will not be posted on this day. Home learning will recommence on Tuesday, 23rd February.

CONTACT TRACING DURING THE HALF TERM HOLIDAY: During the half term holiday please continue to inform school of any positive cases or isolation periods for pupils or their families.

The email address to contact is head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk

Please visit the [Government Portal](#) and the [NHS Website](#) for more detailed information.

ONLINE SAFETY: SAFER INTERNET DAY 9th FEBRUARY: Keeping children safe using technology and the internet is always of paramount importance. This is especially important as during lockdown children may be using devices more regularly. We will be posting activities for the children for home learning during the week of Safer Internet. The school website also has information and links on this subject to support parents and the [National Online Safety Website](#) has some great guides for parents.

May God's love shine in our lives as we care, share and learn together

WINTER WEATHER: We continue to see some wintery weather. As a school we always endeavor to remain open and make everyone effort to ensure our site and premises are safe. Please look in the first instance at the school website, as this will be updated first. If it is not possible for the school to remain open, we will send a notice of closure to you by text message as well as posting on the school website.

CONTACT DETAILS: Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for your children in school. As you are aware **ALL** our communication services are reliant on school having the correct details for you. Therefore, if there are any changes to your mobile numbers and/or email addresses please inform us as soon as possible to ensure we have the correct contact information.

CATHOLIC LIFE: Unfortunately, at the moment we are not able to celebrate Mass in school. We are however sending the weekly Gospel reading as an audio recording for the children alongside a link to the Ten:Ten Assembly for that week. Our teachers are still celebrating the achievements of all our children and have recently expanded the Dojo system to cover home learning as well as school-based learning.

Lent begins during the half term holiday with Ash Wednesday on 17th February 2021.

PARENTS' EVENING: Due to the partial closure of school during this half term we have taken the decision postpone the planned March Parents' Evening until the summer term. This will hopefully allow us to have a period with all the children back in school where we can consolidate home and school learning and the children can undertake assessments to enable teachers to discuss progress and targets with you.

Parish Masses - Please see the parish website for the most up to date information on services at St Peter's and Raphael's Church. If you wish to contact Father Philip his phone number is 0161 338 2575.

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Finally, we hope that you all have a good half term break. Thank you for your continued support and understanding this half term as we 'care, share and learn together.' Please be assured of our continued prayers for our whole community during this time.

We look forward to the time when we can have all our children back together in school.

Mrs L. Lakner

Lynn Lakner, Headteacher
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Next Newsletter: March 2021

DIARY DATES		
FEBRUARY 2021		
Tuesday 9 th	Safer Internet Day	All Day
Friday 12 th	School Closes for Half Term	Current Bubble Times
Wednesday 17 th	Ash Wednesday Start of Lent	
Monday 22 nd	INSET DAY - School Closed for all children	All Day
Tuesday 23 rd	School opens for Spring Term 2 Critical Worker & Vulnerable Children	Current Bubble Times

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