******

**St. Ethelbert’s Catholic**

**Primary School and Nursery**

***‘Learning, achieving and growing together with Jesus’***

**Headteacher: Mrs F.Maynard**

Wexham Road, Slough, Berkshire SL2 5QR

Telephone: 01753 522048 Fax: 01753 552613

“The glory of God is a human being fully alive!”

post@stethelberts.slough.sch.uk

Tuesday 5th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to apologize for the rather confusing start to this new term that I am sure has caused some considerable anxiety for many of you and your children. The very late address by the Prime Minister last night gave schools and parents very little time to make arrangements for today. The government position made a dramatic swerve in direction from initially saying that schools were safe for children to last night describing them as vectors for transmission. School is therefore closed to pupils until at least February. Thank you for your patience and understanding; we will now put our remote learning plans into place.

As soon as there is any confirmed news about the return to school, I will be in touch to let parents know what the arrangements are.

**What happens now?**

For today, work has been set on Seesaw.

**From Wednesday 6th January**

Learning will now be delivered remotely by the class teachers.

* In Years 4, 5 and 6 this will mostly be via Microsoft Teams.
* In Years 2 and 3 this will be via Microsoft Teams and Seesaw.
* In Early Years and Year 1 this will be via Seesaw to begin with, and we plan to deliver some live teaching using Microsoft Teams for Reception and Year 1 soon.

Your child will need access to a laptop, ipad or other device. If you do not have any of these, please contact the school office and we may be able to support you.

The aim is for remote lessons to follow the usual classroom routine and structure. A timetable for your child’s year group will be put up on Seesaw today.

Live lessons will start for Years 2-6 tomorrow, so your child should be ready to log on and see their teacher at 8.50am.

**I can’t remember the password**

If you need a reminder of your Teams login or password, please contact the school office.

**What will a remote lesson be like?**

The teacher will speak to the class using Microsoft Teams. Your child should be dressed in appropriate day clothes with their camera switched on and their audio switched off. The teacher will explain what the expectations are and check that children can see and hear.

The teacher will explain the work, showing examples, perhaps a video, and check that children understand what to do. A task will be set for the children to complete and at the end of the lesson, the teacher will give feedback, help the children mark their work and let them know what will happen next.

Behaviour on Teams should match that expected in class with pupils listening carefully and trying their very best.

**How can I help?**

Make sure your child has a space to work in, ideally in a quiet room with the TV or other distractions turned off.

Children should not be eating during the lesson input. Ask them to use the toilet before the lesson.

Listen to the teacher’s input with them and support them with the independent tasks.

This is new to all of us so be patient if things seem tricky at first. We want this to be the best learning experience it can be for your child, and we will adapt to the children’s needs as best we can.

Some children may find the whole class task a little challenging to access, these pupils will have other work set for them by their LSA.

Online work can be more tiring for pupils and staff than being in the classroom so there is a period in the middle of the day for independent work and exercise; it is important that children get to move around outside each day.

**What will my child do their work on or in?**

A remote learning book and your child’s Maths No Problem workbook needs to be collected from school by parents. You will be emailed separately a date and time in which you need to pick these up. Please look out for this.

The remote learning book is the record of their learning and will be used to show the progress and attainment they have made during this period of lockdown. The books should be kept to the standard of their school exercise books. We encourage parents to work with their children to provide support and celebrate their successes.

Teachers will explain what needs to be recorded in the remote learning books.

**What if I need to speak to the teacher about the work?**

Please do not speak to the teacher on Teams; this is not the appropriate platform. If you have a question, please use the class email address.

Over the next week or so the children will settle into the new routine, the teachers are excited about exploring a new way of delivering lessons and I hope that we are able to work in partnership with our families to provide the very best education we can.

We will be asking parents for feedback so we can evaluate the provision your children are receiving. Please look out for a survey in a few weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office.

Yours Sincerely,

**Mrs Maynard**

**Headteacher**