



**HOLY TRINITY STACKSTEADS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
Booth Road, Stacksteads, Bacup OL13 0QW  
Tel: 01706 877025 Fax: 01706 870482**

**Headteacher: Mr J. Aspin B.Sc.**



3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021,

Dear Parent / Carer,

### **MOVE TO ONLINE TEACHING**

I am writing to inform you that, following consultation with the staff of the school, I have taken the decision to move all teaching to online lessons until at least Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

As you will probably be aware, the government's decision to close all primary schools in Tier 4 areas in London, whilst directing primary schools in Tier 4 areas outside London (including Lancashire schools) has generated great concern. The government, in taking this decision, is acting against the advice of its own S.A.G.E. advisors and other medical institutions who have advocated moving all schools to online learning in light of the new highly contagious Covid-19 variant and the rapidly rising infection levels. This has caused genuine concerns about the safety of children, their families, school staff and the wider community at a time when the N.H.S. is reported to be at risk of being overwhelmed. I fully support the decision of my colleagues in placing the safety of the children and their families, the wider community and their own families at the centre of their thinking.

This decision to move to online learning has been taken as the number of staff members who will be in attendance is not sufficient to provide a safe and secure learning environment for the children when all are present.

This most definitely not my preferred option, nor is it that of the teaching staff or support staff. Online teaching is much harder work for teachers, and the knock-on effects in many areas such as Free School Meals provision makes the day-to-day leadership and management of the school much more complicated.

Of course, having children being taught at home will have a significant impact on many families, where parents are not furloughed and have to attend work, and I am sorry for that. On the other hand, I know that many of you have had worries about your child returning to school, so the temporary move to online learning will be of comfort to you. Once again, there is no easy solution to the problems caused by Covid-19.

As has been the case throughout the Pandemic, difficult decisions have had to be made, but the safety of our children, their families and the school staff has to override everything.

### **KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (K.W.V. GROUP):**

As was the case in the Summer Term, the children of designated key workers (as defined by the government) may attend school when their parents are working.

Children who are designated as vulnerable may also attend school. This includes children who have an E.H.C.P. or who have a social worker or who have other welfare needs.

Children in this group will access the live online lessons, being delivered by their teachers, from the classroom. Their low numbers will allow better safety procedures such as social distancing to be put in place when they are at school.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

#### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

**School will be closed to all pupils to allow time for the necessary planning and organisation to be put in place.**

Teachers will put some activities online via the school website for children to do and communicate with you directly via the mobile app.

Teachers will spend the day re-planning their teaching to adapt it to online lessons. For example, the planned topic for this week was music and for a D.T. unit was due to start next week. Neither lend themselves to online learning, so the geography unit planned for later in the term will be brought forward

Parents who require I.C.T. equipment for their child will be invited to come to the school office between 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. to collect it. **A collection timetable will be sent out to prevent overcrowding during the collection process.**

Parents of Key Worker children should email [contact@stacksteads.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:contact@stacksteads.lancs.sch.uk) to request a place for their child/children. The name and year group of the child/children should be included in the Subject Box. If possible an indication of the days that provision will be needed should be included in the email. If you do not know, please let the school office know as soon as possible. K.W.V. provision will begin on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Arrival time will be 9.00 a.m. and departure will be 3.15 p.m. through the usual entry and exit doors. The reduced numbers of children attending remove the need for staggered start and finish times.

Arrangements for the collection of packed lunches and food packs by the parents of children who are Eligible for Free School Meals will be sent out via the mobile app during the morning.

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

School will be open between 9.00 a.m. and 3.15 p.m. for the children of Key Workers and for children in the Vulnerable Group.

Online lessons will begin for all year groups. Information about this will be posted on the class page of the school website and communicated by the mobile app by your child's teacher.

Further information and updates will be posted using the mobile app as necessary. If you have any specific questions please email them to [contact@stacksteads.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:contact@stacksteads.lancs.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,

J. Aspin  
Headteacher