



**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.



COVID-19 UPDATE - 8TH JANUARY 2021

Online lessons began on Wednesday 6th January for all children following the government announcement of another National Lockdown. We know for sure that the current arrangements for education will continue up to at least the half-term holiday.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues in school for their tremendous response to changing to online learning at extremely short notice. The teachers have quickly replanned their teaching to adapt it to online learning, teaching assistants have taken on the role of supervising those children who are working in school, the school office staff have been inundated with a host of challenges and requests, the site supervisor has needed to completely change his work patterns and duties and the kitchen staff have met the challenge of providing packed lunches and food packs. It has been a first-class effort from everyone.

I would also like to thank those parents who have provided messages of support during what has once again been a very difficult week, and for the patience and understanding shown as your child's teachers get to grips with live online lessons. There have been a few understandable glitches, especially in the technical area, but as we move forward these will become fewer.

ONLINE LESSONS:

The government finally published their guidance on home learning yesterday. The minimum home learning time required for Key Stage 1 is 3 hours per day and for Key Stage 2 is 4 hours per day.

Home learning time is the total of live online learning provided by live teaching sessions and any offline activities that are set for the children.

Our 4 lesson per day schedule for home learning that had to be developed in the absence of any national regulations, will enable us to comfortably meet the government's requirements when any offline activities are taken into account.

These offline activities will be posted by your child's teacher on the class page and they will communicate what your child needs to do. These may include practising

spellings, times tables, basic arithmetic, reading or other suitable activities that they can largely do on their own, although your help may be needed at times.

I have already had a few conversations with parents about the amount of time spent on live lessons. Some have requested more and some have requested less. In light of the government's announcement it is clear that what we are doing is in line with what is required.

P.E. ACTIVITY AFTERNOON:

From next week, Wednesday afternoon will be designated as P.E. Activity afternoon. Every class will undertake their P.E. lesson at the same time. This will involve them being directed to online videos and activities e.g. Joe Wicks. **There will be no live lessons on that afternoon.** Teachers will use this time for Planning, Preparation and Assessment.

Up to an hour's physical activity will be provided. The remainder of the afternoon may be used on completing offline activities or, as suggested by a parent, it may give the opportunity for families, especially those with more than one child in school to go out for a walk together etc.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS:

From Monday 18th January we will be providing vouchers to the parents of children who are eligible for Free School Meals. This will be similar to the process that was in place over the Christmas Holiday. These vouchers are provided solely for the purpose of helping parents to buy food for their children. They are not provided for any other purpose.

Children who are in school will receive a free school meal as usual, so vouchers will not be provided to the parents of these children.

For the week commencing Monday 11th January, food packs will be available for collection between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Monday morning. Please either email contact@stacksteads.lancs.sch.uk or telephone the school office by 9.30 a.m. on Monday morning if you wish to receive your Food Pack. This will reduce the waste food caused by Food Packs being made, but not collected.

ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL:

We are finding that a few children are arriving well before the school day start time of 9.00 a.m. Some are being dropped off by parents and then left unattended in the playground. Please will you ensure that your child arrives at school a few minutes before 9.00 a.m., and no sooner.

On the other hand, please do not allow your child to arrive regularly after 9.00 a.m. Lessons start at 9.15 a.m. prompt and the time between 9.00 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. is needed to complete registration and to make sure that all of the I.C.T. devices are ready and logged on for the start of the first online lesson of the day.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR KEY WORKERS:

We are again supporting our fellow key workers as best we can to allow them to carry out their important roles.

As the whole purpose of moving to online learning is to minimise the number of people in school in order to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus between families, please only send your child to school when there is no-one available at home to look after them. The lower the numbers of children, the lower chance there is of transmission of the virus.

J. Aspin
HEADTEACHER