



**HOLY TRINITY STACKSTEADS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
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**Headteacher: Mr J. Aspin B.Sc.**



### COVID-19 UPDATE 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2021

#### RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR ALL PUPILS:

The Secretary of State for Education indicated this week that at least a 2-week notice period will be given to schools and parents, when it has been decided that all pupils can safely return to school. As yet, there is no indication as to when a full return may take place.

#### IMPORTANT HOME LEARNING UPDATE:

Home Learning places a great deal of responsibility onto you, as a parent, in supporting your child's education and everyone at the school greatly appreciates the efforts that the large majority of you are putting in to help your child.

I know that it is not easy to meet the demands of home learning, especially when you have more than one child, or have pre-school children in the home. As long as you are doing your best in the circumstances that you find yourself, then that is more than good enough.

*If your child becomes very upset with their work, and you have tried to encourage them to do it without success, it is better that they don't do the work and are able to calm down. Persisting to the point where everyone in the house becomes highly stressed by the situation is not in anyone's interest. Please do let your child's teacher know if this happens so they are aware of it.*

I am in regular discussion with the teachers, and parents, about how home learning is going, and the school's approach to it is regularly reviewed.

In acknowledging the strains that Home Learning is placing on many parents, and also children, the following change will be made to its organisation.

#### WELL-BEING WEDNESDAY:

*On Wednesday mornings, starting this coming week, live teaching will be replaced by a series of offline learning tasks that your child should be able to do with very little or no active support from you.*

Your child's teacher will meet the class at 9.15 a.m. on Wednesday morning as usual, and will briefly explain what activities are available to the children. The children will then undertake the work set.

Together with the use of Wednesday afternoon for P.E. activities, this means that Wednesday will be a much less intense day in the middle of the week, where the demands on your time should be much less.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will continue with the existing pattern of 4 live lessons. It is intended that by having a quieter day in the middle of the week that both you and your children will be able to recharge your batteries and be more able to focus fully and with continued energy on the lessons that take place towards the end of the week.

In introducing "Well-Being Wednesday" it is hoped that everyone's physical, mental and emotional well-being will be helped a little.

If you have any questions about this amendment, please contact me at school.

#### **LEARNING MATERIALS:**

Over the next week or so you will be asked to come to school to collect learning materials for your child for the next few weeks. This will include White Rose Maths workbooks, that your child will use when they are at home. Look out for messages on the App about this.

#### **LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTING FOR SCHOOL STAFF:**

From Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, school staff members will have access to twice-weekly rapid testing for Covid-19. This is intended to identify those adults who may have Covid-19, but do not have any symptoms, as part of the drive to break chains of transmission in schools and in the wider community. The tests are self-administered and are taken at home. The result is obtained in 30 minutes.

The government has stipulated that these tests are solely for staff use and should not be offered to primary-aged children at this time.

#### **HANDS, FACE, SPACE:**

Please remember to follow all social distancing and hygiene procedures when you are on the school premises. Please wear a face covering over your mouth **and** nose, and maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from others.

#### **HALF-TERM BREAK:**

The half-term is due to end at 3.15 p.m. on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 with the second half of the Spring Term beginning on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. At this stage, I am making the assumption that the school will be closed to all pupils during that week, but it is possible that further guidance may be published by the government that changes this. I will confirm what the half-term arrangements will be, as soon as I am told them.

J. ASPIN  
HEADTEACHER