



The Federation of Norland CE School and St Mary's CE Junior and Infant School.



Many thanks

Many thanks to everyone for your patience over the last few weeks and thank you to those parents whom I have spoken with, who have sent emails, and for your welcome generally, especially under the current situation.

Many thanks also to those of you who attended the Google classroom sessions and for your feedback on this—we do appreciate the time you take to support your children's learning.

As the new Executive Headteacher of The Federation of Norland CE school and St Mary's CE (VC) Junior and Infant School, I appreciate that this is a challenging time for everyone in the current circumstances, especially with the immediate move to remote learning after Christmas.

As a parent of a 15 year old daughter and having been a Headteacher for 8 years, working in the Salford and Rochdale authorities, I do appreciate the challenges involved in working and trying to juggle remote learning with younger children, and we will do our best to make this as simple and effective as possible, within the resources we have available to us. The situation we find ourselves in is unique and we do understand that for everyone it is far from ideal and look forward to the day we can get back to some level of normality for everyone.

Critical Worker Provision

As small schools we have allocated our critical worker provision in line with the Public Health Guidance from Calderdale Local Authority.

Places were allocated according to the following criteria:

[Vulnerable pupils and children with Education Healthcare plans](#)

[All parents in the household in one of the 5 key groups stated on the critical worker letter.](#)

[At least one parent in the household in one of the 5 key groups with any other adults in the household, also a critical worker.](#)

Once we had applied this criteria the places were full, with some children having to work in different bubbles, not with their own classes.

Capacities of classrooms are worked out based on the floor plan of the school and class size areas allowing for 2M distances between children and a 2M corridor for staff in line with the guidance.

Capacities of different classrooms and year groups vary dependent on shape and size in both schools.

Class 4, for example will only hold 3 children in both schools, however by relocating pupils this number has been increased to provide the maximum available spaces and still allow for a provision for the pupils of critical workers in school.

Class bubble sizes are larger than the overall class capacity with some parents working part time, however all have a maximum capacity for daily provision where we have had to ask some parents to accept lower requests than were originally made.

Up until the new guidance we were able to accept up to 60 children in each school within class bubbles. Under the new guidance we can now only accommodate 27 pupils in Norland and 29 in St Mary's due to the need for 2M social distancing in classes.

The teaching staff, who are in school each day with the critical worker children from their own classes are working together across both schools to support the remote education. Staff at Norland and St Mary's are not on rotas, as in most schools, and are in school every day providing remote education and twice daily zoom sessions, in addition to supervising the maximum number of critical worker places in school, and I thank them all for their hard work, support and commitment to the children and school during what is also a challenging time for many of them too getting used to new technology and ways of teaching.

Working Together

I believe that schools are the heart of the community and are the place for ensuring the best life chances and outcomes for all pupils, whilst ensuring they have a happy, fulfilling and successful time in school and for their futures ahead.

This can only be achieved through partnerships with parents, staff, governors, Church and the local community, and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work with everyone to build upon the foundations you already have and develop a strong vision together.

The staff are working immensely hard to ensure that the remote learning continues to support pupils and families during this time and we appreciate all your support in what you are doing at home to keep your children safe and well.



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The part you play in the social, emotional and academic development of your child is crucial and we welcome your feedback at all levels and open lines of communication between home and school will always be actively encouraged.

If you have any queries in the first instance, please raise these with either of the school offices who are always happy to help. The school email addresses are:

admin@norland.calderdale.sch.uk or
admin@st-marys.calderdale.sch.uk

If you have any concerns that you need to raise beyond your child's class teacher, Mrs Oliver and Miss Barker will both continue leading the day to day running of the individual schools and can be contacted on the above addresses. Again they will be happy to help if you email or approach them directly with any queries.

I will of course be in the individual schools, where I will be dividing my time equally over the week.

Remote Learning

As we are now providing remote learning in both schools our remote learning offer will soon be on the school website. This includes:

- 2 short daily zoom sessions for pupils with a completed consent form
- Daily google classroom assignments set in line with the shared school timetable with pre-recorded sessions and associated activities.
- Daily feedback through google classroom on activities completed and submitted.

As we move forward with remote learning and the daily zoom sessions, teaching staff will be available for the pupils to communicate with during these, and through comments through google classroom.

This offer will continue to be evaluated and reviewed throughout the lockdown.

Each week there will be an opportunity to discuss with myself any queries you may have around remote learning, how best to support learning from home, or any support we can give around supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of the children during this lockdown.

If you think we can be of any help or you would like to discuss anything, please request a time slot in the google form below, and a zoom link will then be sent to you to join at your allocated time. These will be 10 minute slots:

<https://forms.gle/nvQs1ifeb6D9RCXx8>

The slots will disappear when they are booked, so if you get to the form and there are no slots available, I will release more for the following week.

Working, parenting and teaching are 3 different jobs and trying to do all 3 at once is a mammoth task!

Please do the best you can. We set the work on google classroom to support continuing your children's learning during lockdown, however this is the work that we have been asked to set by the DfE and we appreciate how difficult it may be for this to be completed on the day.

We are in this together to stay safe and well , which means mentally well too, so please make this your first priority for you and your family. Please do let us know if you have any queries around your child's learning and we will do all we can to help.

Free School Meals

For parents entitled to Free School Meals, the National Voucher Scheme will be reinstated from this week and codes will be emailed to parents direct from Edenred. Please ensure your email is up to date to receive these.

Many thanks for your support

Yvette

Diary Dates:

Time slots available to book for individual sessions with Yvette Sullivan via google forms:

Wednesday 20th January

Friday 22nd January