



THE ST CHARLES' NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th January 2021

"Bring Forth Christ"



Determination Friendship Good Manners Respect Responsibility

AN INTERESTING START TO 2021

It was great to welcome everybody back to school on Monday but unfortunately it was short-lived for one day only due to the government announcement which was made that night. Thankfully, we have a wonderful team here at St. Charles' who rallied round and tried their best to transition to remote learning within the 12-hour notice period we were given. As the week has progressed, we have started to get to grips with the best way to make remote learning work. It isn't perfect, none of this situation is, and there will continue to be some technical issues to deal with but all we ask is that you try your best with the remote learning tasks being set. Completing work online isn't essential, work/answers can be written down on a piece of paper and a picture sent in shows the teacher what your child can do. Staff in school are working hard to support both children working at home and in school. If there is anything we can do to help, please don't hesitate to send a dojo, ring the office or send an e-mail.

On Wednesday, we were alerted to a positive case of Covid-19 within our Year 6 class with a child who was in attendance on Monday. This has resulted in all the children within the class isolating for 10 days. We have had no further notifications of positive cases across school but in light of figures locally and nationally, we ask that all members of our school community do all they can to follow the lockdown measures in place. In doing our part in our small corner of East Lancashire, we can have an impact on our local data which could mean we can open our doors as soon as schools are allowed to open more widely.

Please make sure you keep in touch with your child's class teacher during this lockdown period and we will do all we can to support you.

Thanks
Mr Kennedy
Acting Head teacher

LOCKDOWN 2021 UPDATES

- Critical Worker parents who have completed the 'Official Booking Form' should have received an e-mail confirming their days of attendance. Please contact school if you haven't received this.
- Any parents who initially booked places at Breakfast Club and After School Club prior to lockdown, should have received a full refund through the ParentPay System. If you haven't received this, please contact the school office. Next week, snack and milk money sent for this half term will be refunded by the office through Parentpay.
- Income based FSM – Information will be e-mailed out to FSM parents on Monday.
- Please contact school if you need help with accessing remote learning provision.
- If you want a pack of work next Friday, please complete the online form on our school website.

PLACES IN SCHOOL

We of course want to be in the position to support all our families with Critical Workers (CW) but we also have to be ever mindful of the reason why this lockdown has been implemented – to dramatically reduce contact between households in order to drive down infection rates and we all have our part to play in this. As I write this, another 1,325 Covid related deaths have been announced and a further 68,053 new positive cases.

With higher numbers of children currently in school compared to last time (in March we had around 12-15 children a day at the most), we are going to have to consider introducing a tighter priority system to ensure we are supporting those families who genuinely would not be able to carry out their Critical Worker roles without a school place as they have no other childcare options. I understand and know full well that some of our parents are genuinely using school as they have no alternative provisions and have exacerbated all options. I am also aware that there are Critical Worker parents who have moved heaven and earth to prevent their children coming into school knowing the risks that mixing with the children of other Critical Worker children can have. All that I ask is that you review your situation and do everything you can to help reduce the spread of this virus.

Over the coming weeks, it may become necessary to reduce the number of children in school due to new and genuine requests for places OR if my staffing levels reduced due to self-isolation, and the following priority order will be implemented:

- vulnerable children (CLA or EHCP)
- children where both parents are key workers or children with single parents who are key workers. NHS/Healthcare and education key workers to take priority if needed.
- Children where only one of two parents is a key worker. NHS/Healthcare and education key workers to take priority if needed.

I hope this is not needed but want to explain the measures I may have to take in the coming weeks.

DATA ALLOWANCE INCREASE

The Government has partnered with major mobile phone operators to provide free internet data to disadvantaged children. The following networks have partnered with the Department for Education to ensure that those children that need it most do not miss out on online education:

- Three
- SMARTY
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile
- O2

If you feel that you would benefit from this, please send the following information to: remotelearning@st-charles.lancs.sch.uk and school will make the necessary arrangements:

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

The offer is available to customers on pay monthly or Pay As You Go plans. The pupils will be able to use the offer until the end of the school year in July 2021.

HYNDBURN HUB

Any family who needs support can access a wide range of support from Food bank to Gas and Electricity etc... There is no criteria you need to meet so if you are struggling, ring the main Hyndburn council number and when you get through to the switchboard, ask for the Hyndburn Hub. The number to ring is: 01254 388 111 or you can e-mail: enquiries@hyndburnbc.gov.uk

DIOCESE OF SALFORD - LAUDATO SI LOGO COMPETITION

On the 4th January 2021, a logo design competition was launched to all schools. The logo will be for the Laudato Si Centre which will be based at Wardley and will be used on the website and branding of the project.

The Laudato Si Centre, which, when open, will welcome visitors to learn about protecting our planet, and will encourage us all to share actions and ideas 'to protect our common home' following on from the letter that Pope Francis wrote to every person. Laudato Si' discusses the damage being inflicted on the Earth by humans and calls on 'every person' to make urgent changes to our lifestyles, for example how we consume energy in order to protect our planet.

It deals with many environmental issues including:

- pollution
- climate change
- water
- loss of biodiversity
- decline in the quality of human life
- That everything is in some way connected together; and
- That how we treat our world is reflected in how we love God and one another

As part of this exciting project, we would like **you** to take on the important task of designing our new 'Laudato Si Centre' logo: There will be three prizes (a bookshop voucher for £15 and the overall winner's logo will be digitally transformed and turned into the Laudato Si Centre logo).

If you want to enter, please draw a logo based on what the Laudato Si Centre means to you. **You could** paint/draw/colour what you think our new logo should look like. Please note that this should not be produced digitally. The winning design will then be transformed into a digital design which will be front and centre at our Laudato Si Centre.

Please send all entries to: lisa.heywood@dioceseofsalford.org.uk by the 12pm on Friday 12th February 2021. Entries after this date and time will not be accepted. Please ensure your entries include the entrant's name, age and a school contact. A panel will judge the entries and announce the winners and runners up on 1st March and the winning entry will then be transformed into the digital logo.

