



SAINT PETER AT GOWTS

SAINTPETERS@HOME

8TH JANUARY 2021

“Unlocking the potential in all, empowering a community of Hope”

NOTES FROM THE HEADTEACHER

What an unprecedented week it has been; challenging, uncertain and difficult times for all. Please can I offer my huge thanks for ‘bearing’ with us as we sorted out critical worker and vulnerable children. There has been a lack of formal guidance this week, coupled with the heavy burden of decision making - trying to do the right thing for both staff and pupils.

It is clear that we have many more children on site than we did during the lockdown in March 2020. This reflects the changing criteria and the pressures many families face as their childcare options are more limited due to their own work pressures being more demanding and less flexible than in previous lockdowns. There are now 52% of our children who are on site receiving face to face education. We cannot safely accommodate anymore and if any circumstances change and critical workers are able to home school we urge you to let us know.

The idea of our ‘blended curriculum’ is that the pupils at home and at school receive exactly the same quality lessons and resources, so that when we are back together the children will be at the same point. No winners or losers, everyone having the same support regardless of circumstances. Let’s hope over the next few weeks we can achieve this goal. Our teachers are there to support you. Don’t believe what you hear in the press. The teachers at St. Peter’s don’t want more holidays; we all want the very best for our children and we will strive to make sure you are supported in every way.

Please do enjoy your weekend and bear with us as we develop our on-site learning even more. If we can be of any help do not hesitate to get in touch.

Charlotte Hickerton

CLASSROOM ORGANISATION AND COVID PROTOCOLS

Our site has once again become a closed site. The only visitors to school are essential providers and the bubble structure has become even more rigorous. Changes to the risk assessment have included

- Halved numbers of children per bubble - bubble sizes range from 9 - 16 max
- No staff moving between bubbles under any circumstances
- Children have own desk and separated resources
- Children in bubbles have a fastidious cleanliness routine
- Increased cleaning - lunch time cleaners employed to clean touch points and toilets
- Air flow in classrooms (constant airflow to prevent spread of germs)
- Increased face covering wearing and social distancing
- No singing or shouting

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

During the day, the children have very well established Covid protocols. Our main worry is to make sure that the adults socially distance when they drop off and pick up children, both at the nursery gate and in the main playground. We are so grateful to the vast majority of parents who understand the threat of coronavirus. In order to prevent the potential spread of the virus we would ask all parents to

- Wear a face covering to drop and pick up children
- Do not talk to any other parents (in the lockdown, any social interaction should be limited)
- Only have 1 family member at pick up times
- Be punctual, but not early to pick up or drop off children
- Make sure you stay 2m away from other family groups at all times

This is to ensure your own safety, and protect those around you. We know how quickly the new variant can spread and it is paramount that St. Peter's is not the cause for anyone to become poorly.

LOCKDOWN SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

We are satisfied that every child who has been allocated a place has a valid reason for being there. We believe that we have reached a balance between critical worker, vulnerable and home learners. We are now close to reaching capacity in the school, with many bubbles reaching their upper limit. Despite this, our bubbles are half the size of before Christmas, they feel safe, distanced and we are more Covid aware than ever. In order for things to run smoothly for our Saint Peters@school children we would like to request that all children bring a

- Hoodie/fleece/blanket due to windows being ajar and the temperature outside being low (heating is on fully too)
- A clearly labelled water bottle
- A snack to be eaten during the morning
- Hand sanitiser (we have ordered this for every child - due to arrive asap)
- A face covering if they wish (esp. key stage 2)

WOW DAYS ON MONDAY

We were so delighted that the children got to launch their topics on Monday. The children were able to enjoy a variety of exciting experiences. In Years 1 and 2, the children conducted a traffic survey. It will be interesting to compare their data with the amount of traffic during lockdown! In Years 3 and 4 the children started exploring their new topic about Rainforests. The children were able to handle a variety of rainforest animals including spiders, snakes, chinchillas and much more. They then enjoyed a dance session with a professional dancer from Dance NK, exploring the sights and sounds of the rainforest. There were some wonderful costumes that the children wore too! In Years 5 and 6, the children also enjoyed a dance session, exploring the water cycle, linked to their topic about Rivers and Coasts. It was wonderful to see the children using the scientific terms whilst representing them through the medium of dance! The children also made some beautiful artwork linked to water and waves.



