



# St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Headteacher:  
Mrs L Prestidge

Tel: 01634 371892

Email: [office@staugustine.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@staugustine.medway.sch.uk)

Deanwood Drive  
Rainham  
Gillingham  
Kent  
Kent  
ME8 9NP



29 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of another week of National Lockdown. This week, the Prime Minister announced: *It will not be possible to re-open schools immediately after the February half-term.* I understand the Government instead hopes it will be safe to commence the reopening of schools and colleges from Monday 8 March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. Therefore, Schools will remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as they are now. All other children will continue to receive high quality remote education at home. This is in line with the wider National Lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus.

## Mental Health and Well-Being

Mental Health and Well-being is always important; now more than ever with the National Lockdown. Next week, we will be taking part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'Express Yourself'. Place2Be have created activities and resources to help children (and adults) to explore the different ways that they can share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. There are a number of resources on the Children's Mental Health Week website that Parents and Carers can use with your child at home; including activity ideas, tips for parents and carers, and an online assembly which will be available from Monday 1 February.

Parents and Carers are encouraged to visit children's mental health week to find out more.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

## Remote Learning

As a school we have worked hard to maintain and develop our excellent Remote Learning. I am very grateful to the teachers for their dedication to the children's learning, progress and well-being within their Remote Learning on the VLE and communications with families. I know that as parents and carers at home you are working hard to support your child's learning and have been in regular contact with the class teachers to share your child's learning for assessment. I have been delighted to see some wonderful learning outcomes that the teachers have shared with me. If you are experiencing difficulties, please do not hesitate to get in touch - we want to help.

We have supplied devices to those parents and carers eligible in line with government guidelines criteria. Please get in touch if you feel that you may be eligible and do not have a device at home to access Remote Learning.

## Free School Meals

All parents and carers in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals should now have received their codes and vouchers. Medway Local Authority have plans to provide supermarket vouchers to those eligible parents and carers during the February half term.



## Lateness

We have essential control measures within our Risk Assessment to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19; these are our best endeavours to keep children and staff safe. Therefore, I ask that parents and carers adhere to the staggered drop off and pick up times and ensure social distancing is observed. Although we are very grateful for the co-operation and support of our families. We have noticed an increase in the number of children arriving late to school after the gate has closed. The gate must be closed promptly at 8.55am for safeguarding purposes. Arriving to the green security gate late does not allow for adequate social distancing within a one-way system and is disruptive to staff and children. Please ensure that you adhere to the times below when dropping off and collecting your child:

Staggered arrival	
8:45am	8:55am
KS1 only <b>siblings</b> and KS1	<b>Siblings</b> and KS2
Staggered release	
3:10pm	3:20pm
KS1 only <b>siblings</b>	KS2 and siblings

In line with National Lockdown: Stay at Home Guidance; everyone should be observing the National Lockdown restrictions. If your child is in school as a vulnerable child or child of a Critical Worker, it is paramount for the safety of the children and staff in school that you follow the rules outside of school to keep your child, other children and staff safe. Everyone must follow the guidance. It is the law. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

## Severe Weather

We are in the 'Winter' months and therefore we are experiencing colder weather which can bring with it the possibility of snow and ice. We will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter. If we do experience severe weather resulting in hazardous and unsafe conditions, we may have to take the decision to close our school to the children who are currently attending (a decision which is never taken lightly). Once a decision is made to close, we will:

- \* Post a message on our school website.
- \* Send a message to parents/carers via Parentmail (text and/or email);
- \* We will update the school website regularly to keep parents and carers informed about arrangements for the following day. We will inform the Kent Closures website [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk) of our school closure. However, the most effective means of communication is through Parentmail when we can text you to inform you of school closure and also inform you of the school opening again. Please do sign up for Parentmail if you have not already done so.

Finally, thank you to all of the families who have got in touch with positive messages regarding the Remote Learning on the VLE and to those that email their children's learning regularly to the class teachers. We are communicating with families who we do not receive regular learning from as a supportive measure to enable their children to access Remote Learning and submit work to their teacher, as is a government requirement during this time.

However, we understand the difficulties some families are facing during home learning. Therefore, we understand that you may not be able to complete the Remote Learning in its entirety every day. As parents and carers at home, it is important to take time to look after yourselves and your child's mental and physical well-being. Please have a look at the resources on the link above and available on our website.

Thank you for your continued support as we look after each other in our strong school community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Prestidge  
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

