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| ***Learning to Live, Living to Learn*** | **St John’s Primary School.**  **Teindland Close,**  **Newcastle upon Tyne,**  **NE4 8HE.**  **Telephone : 0191 – 273 5293** Fax : 0191 – 273 0651 **e. mail – tracey.caffrey@stjohns.newcastle.sch.uk**  **Headteacher : Tracey Caffrey** |

4th January 2021

Dear parents,

**Important update**

**The UK government have announced tonight that we are to move to a full national lockdown from tomorrow, 5th January and that this will last until at least February half term.**

We are shocked and saddened by the news, especially as we have been given no time to prepare the children or to work with you all to put the necessary plans in place.

**School is not closing and learning will continue for all children.** The building will remain open to Key Worker and vulnerable children only though. In order to arrange a place for your child you MUST complete to short survey that I have shared on Class Dojo, Seesaw, Tapestry and on the website. We will contact all parents of eligible children to arrange for them to come in to school. **Do not bring your child to school unless we have confirmed they have a place.**

**If you are not a Key Worker – there is a description attached to the survey – or your child is not classed as ‘vulnerable,’ they must stay at home and move to remote learning.**

We have worked hard since the first lockdown to get ‘live’ lessons and online work right for your child and we are proud of our remote learning offer. We know it is not the same as being in school every day, but we have managed to get our online learning as close as possible to being in school. Through Microsoft Teams lessons, your child will be taught by their class teacher every day and will be able to interact with their friends in class.

Children in Year 1 – Year 6 will get a full programme of lessons every day and you will be given a timetable so you know which subjects to expect at different times of the day.

This is your child’s schooling for at least the next six weeks and it is important that you treat it like a school day by getting your child up, dressed and ready to start work by their normal start time. We expect EVERY child to take part in ALL lessons on Teams and will be taking a register every session. The work that is set by the teachers should be completed and uploaded to the same standard it would be if it was done in class. Teachers will feedback to children just as they would if they were in school. We want your children to learn and thrive over the next term, just as they would if they were in school. By offering live lessons, we hope that this will take the pressure off parents – we don’t expect you to ‘home school’ your child, but we do need your support to make this work.

Children in nursery and reception will also have ‘live’ sessions with their class teachers and will have tasks set, but we do not expect that the children will focus for the same length of time as the older children. Teachers will contact you to arrange what this will look like.

**We have a number of devices that were given to us by the government. If your child is having to access online learning on a mobile phone or you have more than one child sharing a device, please message me on Class Dojo and I will arrange for you to loan a device. We also have some data sim cards that we can give to families without wifi.**

If you have not downloaded Class Dojo on your phone, please do it now and ask your child’s teacher for the log in details. This is the main way we will communicate with you during the lockdown so it is vital all parents have access to it and have notifications turned on.

Bear with us. It might take a couple of days for us to get everything up and running, but we hope to have everything in place by the end of this week. Check Seesaw on Wednesday morning (Tapestry for nursery children) for information from your child’s teacher about remote learning.

As ever, if you have any questions, please just give me a ring, message me on Dojo or send me an email to the address at the top of the page.

Take care



Mrs T Caffrey