



St. Felix RC Primary School

January 2021 Newsletter



God overcomes the world's evil by taking it upon himself. This is also how we can lift others up: not by judging, not by suggesting what to do, but by becoming neighbours, empathizing, sharing God's love.

Pope Francis 14 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we are two weeks into the Spring Term; time has such a strange quality at the moment. Life has taken on a new rhythm and we know from all our experiences last year that we have to establish a workable routine in order to protect our mental health until the next change occurs.

Numbers of pupils in school are much higher than during lockdown last March and the picture at St Felix mirrors that reported in the media. Please bear in mind the government advice that even if parents are critical workers, pupils should stay at home if they can. By only sending your child on the days when provision is needed, you enable us to provide places for a wider group of pupils.

I am sure you have seen that testing for primary schools is the next item on the government agenda. As yet we have no further guidance on this but it is unlikely to follow the secondary model and home testing is the preferred method.

It has been great to see more and more children engage with Remote Learning on Teams and well done for all you have done as parents to facilitate this. I recognise how many obstacles there are to working in this way so please congratulate yourselves on what you have achieved rather than focusing on what has been less successful. The teachers really enjoy hearing from their pupils and seeing them at Class Meets. Here is the [link](#) for your feedback about the volume of work on Teams – apologies as the last one had the wrong settings.

Please do get in touch with us if you need any support. Teachers can be contacted directly through Teams and other queries can be directed to the office. Please be aware we have only one member of staff in the office to reduce transmission risk and so the answerphone may be used at busy times. If you leave a clear message and contact number we will get back to you but calls received outside of office hours will not be answered until the next working day.

Look after yourselves for the week ahead and let us all pray for better news and better weather.

Best Wishes,



Class Masses

This term Father John had planned to share Class Masses in school with KS2. This seemed impossible last week but ever resourceful he has managed to come up with a solution. Each week the class chooses a theme and sends resources to him and he produces a private Mass via the Parish You tube channel and the link is shared with pupils at home via Teams and in school.

Dahl Class had a successful Mass this week and future Masses are planned for:

Riddell 21st Jan 9:15

Lewis 28th Jan 9:15

Morpugo 4th Feb 9:15

Year 6 11th Feb 9:15



The Diocese is recruiting a grant-funded Historic Churches Support Officer on 20 hours per week.

The closing date is Monday February 22nd.

Details can be obtained by going

to <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/vacancies/>

Test and Trace in January for pupils attending St Felix

Covid reporting – IMPORTANT

If your child displays any Covid-19 symptoms (dry, persistent cough; high temperature or loss of taste / smell) you should keep them at home and arrange a test. Please remember if your child is in school you need to inform the school immediately should a member of your household test positive for Covid-19.

The isolation period has now been reduced from 14 days to 10 days.

Online Safety

As you may have seen on the news, there has been an increase in self-generated child sexual abuse imagery: *The Internet Watch Foundation figures show that 44% of the child sexual abuse content dealt with by the organisation last year involved self-generated material, compared with 29% in 2019.*

Self-generated content can include material filmed using webcams, very often in the child's own room, and then shared online. In some cases, children are groomed, deceived or extorted into producing and sharing a sexual image or video of themselves.

I am not sharing this to add to your already considerable concerns at this time but just to raise awareness and encourage you to keep checking online activity which takes place out of sight. The increase was greatest in the 11-13 age group.

This week, in response to lockdown, Thinkuknow have published this [parental helpsheet](#) for online safety.

Their [main website](#) also has activities and videos to support you with online safety during remote learning.

Other sources of advice

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers