



THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
The Catholic Diocese of Northampton
"Following Jesus, The Good Shepherd, in all we say and do"

Sunday, 15 November 2020

Head Teacher Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

As most of you know, we have had to close several bubbles from Wednesday last week due to positive cases of Coronavirus in school.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prompt response. You carried out your part in a calm and swift manner which allowed our staff to carry out our procedures in a timely manner. The DFE and Public Health have been extremely helpful in guiding us through the process. Where we have had year group bubbles, children across two classes mix outside at play time and we therefore made the decision to send both classes home.

Whilst the Government have been keen for us to operate a bubble system, this has been extremely challenging. Families have children in multiple bubbles and shared childcare arrangements have been essential. We also have children with siblings in secondary schools where bubbles have already been closing.

With the support of our Trust, we have made the decision to move to online learning this week for all bubbles including those without positive cases to date. This is a precautionary measure and will allow our cleaning company to carry out a further deep clean.

We hope that this will help us to further review our processes in order to welcome children back in phased stages week beginning 23rd November 2020.

This week as we move to online learning, I would ask you to be patient with staff who are in the early stages of this process. There will be an expectation that children are engaging in their learning every day from 9am.

A number of classes are trialling Microsoft Teams during this period and will have communicated usernames/passwords (some of these have been distributed via Purple Mash or parent email if children did not take them home.) Please check all email contacts as well as Purple Mash files.



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust Ltd

A private limited company with charitable status registered in England & Wales

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL **Company Number:** [09436283](https://www Companies House UK)

I know that some children have already been in contact with their teachers through their Purple Mash shared blog which is really helpful. Teachers will guide the children through although I would imagine initially there will be a lot of 'turn on mic, turn off mic, put your hand up, turn camera on, turn camera off'!

We have had a rehearsal run this afternoon and it seems that in most cases children will be able to hear their teacher and teachers will be able to share their screens, however at present teachers cannot see the children or use the chat function. This is an administration glitch that we will work around.

Please ensure you are logged into Outlook 365 or download the Microsoft Teams app:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app>



[Download desktop and mobile apps | Microsoft Teams](#)

Download Microsoft Teams now and get connected across devices on Windows, Mac, iOS, and Android. Collaborate better with the Microsoft Teams app.

www.microsoft.com

Once you have downloaded the app. Look in the calendar to join a meeting.

Our youngest children will continue on Tapestry.

We are expecting children to engage in formal learning during mornings and more topic/creative activities throughout the day.

Teachers may set them off on tasks and check in with them sporadically throughout the day. Ensuring both children and teachers have regular breaks. We will conduct a daily reviews to address issues/concerns as they arise.

For more information and additional resources, visit our Online Learning page on the school website - <https://www.thegoodshepherdprimaryschool.org.uk/page/?title=Home+Learning+%2D+Covid%2D19&pid=70> Year group pages can be found by clicking on the relevant tab on the right hand side of the page.

- Login to IXL, here - www.ixl.com/signin/olicatschools
- Log in to Purple Mash, here - <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/the-good-nn2>
 - Login to TTRS here - <https://play.ttrockstars.com>
 - Log in to Tapestry, here - <https://tapestryjournal.com>

I would like to extend my thanks to our Governors for their swift response organizing food parcels for our FSM families, and to Thomas Beckett staff for supporting with the distribution.

I would also like to ask if anyone knows or is in contact with a plant hire company? We are looking for heavy duty (plastic) barriers to divide our key stage two playground further. If you can help, please contact the school via e-mail at admin@thegoodshepherd.northants.sch.uk



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust Ltd

A private limited company with charitable status registered in England & Wales

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL **Company Number:** [09436283](https://www Companies House uk/09436283)

I know that moving to online learning may be inconvenient at this time but please rest assured we are making this decision in light of growing numbers of positive test outcomes.

Please can we ask that you continue to follow all government guidance during this period to help protect yourselves and our school community. Therefore, if your child has been asked to isolate at home, please ensure that this is the case. They must not come onto school site to collect siblings. They must stay at home until their return date. As a parent you only need to isolate if your child or another member of the household becomes symptomatic or you have been contacted by Track and Trace.

Thank you all for your continued kindness and support! Words cannot comprehend how much we appreciate it in these challenging times.

I shall be in touch again soon!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Dodds
Head Teacher



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust Ltd

A private limited company with charitable status registered in England & Wales

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL **Company Number:** [09436283](https:// Companies House/09436283)