



# Pilgrims' Way Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss AM Middleton



29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm sure that many of you will have been following the news on Tuesday and have picked up on the statement regarding school closures, but for those of you who may not have had the chance to see it yet, I wanted to make sure everyone was as up to date as possible.

It has been rare, since the start of the pandemic, that schools have been provided with much clarity or advance notice, but we are pleased that we now have at least some certainty about what will be happening in the coming weeks. The key announcements from Parliament are as follows:

- The **earliest** schools might 'begin to re-open' will be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday
- There will be a plan/review set out on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of home-learning under the current arrangements. I know that this will be bitterly disappointing for the children, families and staff, but I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.

We also received a clarification from the Department for Education (DfE) yesterday that schools would not be open over half-term for children of critical workers as was the case in the first lock-down. All the staff are very sad that we cannot move forward and be back together after the half term break. We will continue to provide learning for all our children for the rest of this term and at least for the first few weeks into Term 4.

I am in awe of the support you are providing at home and I know it is an exceptionally hard time for you all. Home Learning on the scale we have currently is still relatively new to all parents, children and teachers and we have developed and will continue to develop our remote offer over time.

We really do understand how frustrating it is for all parents - many of the staff are parents too and share your frustrations but we are here to help as much as possible.

- If you or your child needs help with their Home Learning, please contact your child's teacher through DoJo
- If you need support, for example, anxiety, financial or just want to have a chat, please contact our amazing Family Liaison Officer, Helen by email [helen.fennell@pilgrims-way.kent.sch.uk](mailto:helen.fennell@pilgrims-way.kent.sch.uk) or by phone 07840918699
- You can also contact us through [office@pilgrims-way.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@pilgrims-way.kent.sch.uk) or 01227 760084 where your message will be directed to the right person

Thank you for all for your support and helpful messages that you are sending to me and my staff. We really appreciate you taking the time to contact us with such positive messages of support and really like to see what your children have been accomplishing with their Home Learning. Thank you.

## **Track and Trace**

Please continue to inform us if you, your child or someone in your household is positive to Covid 19. As a school, we have to complete daily Track and Trace documentation. We also would like to know so we can offer support if needed.

## **Message from our Wellbeing Practitioner**

My name is Katherine and I am excited to introduce myself as a member of the Canterbury and Coastal Emotional Wellbeing Team who is based in Pilgrims' Way Primary School. I am trained as an Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner, and I am employed by the local NHS trust. My role has a variety of aspects, and there are different ways I can offer support to the school. This includes, but is not limited to: Parent intervention (1:1 or group sessions) for child Anxiety or Child behaviour, Parent workshops and signposting. Please find more information on the school website under Community and a link to my referral form <http://www.pilgrims-way.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Emotional+Wellbeing+Practitioner&pid=303>

## **Parents' Evening**

When we planned key dates for this academic year, we had decided to hold Parents' Evening this term. With the lockdown this is not possible. Over the next two weeks class teachers will telephone you to discuss progress over lockdown and suggested next steps. They can also continue to guide and support you with the fantastic job you are doing with your child's Home Learning to ensure they have the best opportunities.

The school office will text you the day before your child's teacher is going to ring. If there are any difficulties with the chosen date, please reply to the school office who will pass on your message to the class teacher.

## **Flu Vaccination Drop-In Clinic**

The Immunisation team are offering a final drop-in clinic for children who have not yet had their nasal flu vaccination. Please telephone 03001235205 if you have any queries.

This clinic will be held on Sunday 7th February between 1-4pm at :-

Exchange House,  
6 Thomas Way,  
Lakesview International Business Park,  
Hersden,  
Canterbury,  
CT3 4NH.

I send you all my warmest regards. My staff and I are here to help as much as possible and all hope that it is not too much longer until we are all back together.

Miss AM Middleton  
Headteacher