



Sacred Heart News



Dear Parents / Carers,

Now that we are reaching the end of week five of lockdown, things feel a bit calmer and we have strangely adapted to a new 'normal', I am going to revert to writing weekly newsletters. If I am informed of anything of significance, I will continue to report this to you in a more timely manner. I will also continue to provide updates via the school's Facebook page which has proven to be a useful tool for communication.

Remote Learning

Thank you to everyone at home for embracing the home learning in such a positive and enthusiastic way. We started the summer term prepped and ready to go and had a phenomenal response to the school's engagement on Purple Mash

On the first day, I received an email from the owner of the company with the title, 'Wow!'

Dear Mrs Day

I just wanted to say WOW!

Sacred Heart was the top user of Purple Mash yesterday in the Whole Wide World with 5911 activities accessed.

Well done Mrs Day and all the teachers and children at Sacred Heart.

Keep safe and keep mashing

I'd like to extend that 'well done' to all the parents too for embracing this new technology and for finding ways to support your child's learning at home, despite the challenges.

To complete 5911 activities was phenomenal for day one as we only have 243 pupils – and at that point only about 67% had accessed the platform. Incredible!

Last night, I met with teachers via a virtual staff meeting and amongst other things we discussed issues that have been raised by parents regarding the online learning. Most of the early issues have now been solved and we are addressing the others. I will prepare a summary and send out via email.

In the meantime, if you have any issues with any element of your child's learning, please email your child's teacher direct or contact via Purple Mash. I have attached the list previously circulated with contact details.

New Timings

From Monday 27th April, teachers will be timetabled online on Purple Mash between 9-10am and again between 2-3pm daily, unless they are teaching in school on that day.

Please try to keep your contact emails between these times if possible, particularly if you require an immediate response.

If your child **has not engaged** with their online learning, you will have received a letter from Natalie Black (attendance officer) encouraging you to make contact with school if you are having problems. If we do not hear from you, we will continue to make contact until we do. Whereas we understand the difficulties many of you may be facing with home learning, it is not acceptable for your child to simply opt out completely and not attempt any learning during school closures. We need to support each other to make this work for the children.



Additional Home Learning Resources

For those of you who have requested additional work

BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

There are two ways to go with BBC Bitesize: daily lessons which are all planned out or via the second link which will take you subject by subject. You may see some of these links appearing in your child's weekly plans in the future as it is a National Curriculum linked site but feel free for your child to access this resource as extra learning or to support learning away from the computer.

Oak National Academy



<https://www.thenational.academy>

Again, this site has daily lessons but through a series of videos and quizzing. Both sites have been endorsed by the government and will be an excellent resource for you if you feel that your child has run out of work. **There is no expectation for your child to complete these activities unless instructed to do so in their weekly plan.**

Recovery Plan: Reopening of Schools

There has been much speculation over the past week around when schools will re-open – most of which has been harmful media hype. Following a meeting with the Local Authority and representatives from the Department of Education this morning, they clarified that there has been no further information from government regarding the re-opening of schools. No dates have been given and it remains the case that schools will not open until it is scientifically proven to be safe to do so. There are lots of different scenarios regarding what this may look like but when this will be, nobody knows.

Welfare calls

Mrs Nott and I have spoken to many of you over the past few weeks as has our family support workers: Andrea Gjikolaj and Natalie Black.

In time, we hope to get around to speaking to all of you. This is just to check in and make sure that you're all doing okay during these uncertain times.

Free School Meals

I think you have all finally received your vouchers. Thank you to Mrs Codd who coordinated all of this. If you have any further enquiries regarding Free School meals, please contact Mrs Codd via email. codd@shrtps.org

Food Poverty

We understand that due to changing circumstances in employment that many of you may be struggling financially at the moment. As a school, we are able to make referrals for 'People who are in financial hardship and need a grocery parcel'. If you are finding yourself

struggling to put food on the table, please do get in touch. Contact Mrs Nott via email on nott@shrtps.org

Am I eligible for support?

Torbay Food Alliance are providing non-perishable food parcels as well as meal delivery services across Torbay during the COVID-19 crisis. This service is aimed at those people in the community with the greatest need.



Are you in financial hardship?



If so you could be eligible – details of your current financial circumstances will be asked for on the referral.

Alternatively,
You can ring
the helpline

If you need to access the Food Bank in your area because you cannot afford to pay for your food please call the helpline...

**Torquay & Paignton Areas call 01803 446022,
08:00 - 20:00, 7 Days a week**

Domestic Abuse (Support within Torbay)

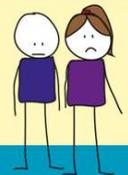
Is having to spend more time at home because of the current crisis causing you anxiety or distress? This could be for any number of reasons. One might be because spending lots of time together just creates extra tension within families, but it will have more impact on you and your children if this extra tension is caused by domestic abuse at home. You might think that domestic abuse is something that happens to other people, but if someone is controlling your mind or finances, hurting your body, or threatening to hurt the people you love then that is domestic abuse.

Services are still available to offer advice, help and support during the current situation and you can access a 24/7 webchat facility with Victim Support via the Victim Care Unit website <https://victimcaredevonandcornwall.org.uk/> If you, or someone you know, is living with domestic abuse it is not OK. Always contact the police on 999 if you believe you are in immediate danger.

Information and advice can also be found on the [Are You OK](#) website together with a directory of services and some useful [toolkits](#).

You can contact Victim Support on **Freephone 08 08 16 89 111**. If you need a safe space to make a private call, school can provide an isolated room and phone for you.

COVID-19 isolation may increase domestic abuse
Help is available



Facebook

At the beginning of the year we put a target of 100 followers for our Facebook page in our communication plan; we are presently sitting at 310 so it has been well-received. If you do not follow our page, please do so as it is updated regularly with essential information and celebrations of learning and achievements.

@SacredHeartPaignton



Thank you

Thank you once again to the staff at Sacred Heart for their continuing hard work in playing their part in the fight against Covid-19. We have around thirty-five children on our registers, enabling essential key workers to get to work and keep the country functioning. I am aware that we have many more key workers in our school community who have found alternative arrangements too and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all, particularly those on the front line working alongside people with the virus.

Please keep our school and parish community in your thoughts and prayers as we do you. Please do not hesitate to contact school if there is anything that we can do to help.

Take care and stay safe

Mrs Nichola Day

(Headteacher)

