



St Agnes C of E (V.A) Primary School

Knolls Lane, Lees, Oldham, OL4 5RU

Tel : 0161 770 5970

E-mail: info@stagnes.oldham.sch.uk

Headteacher : Miss S Butterworth

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Well, it's not been the first half term back to school that we were all anticipating/hoping for was it? Yet here we all are in Lockdown 3, with a move to remote learning and what an adjustment that has been!

I write as both a parent and as the Chair of Governors when I extend my thanks and gratitude to all the teachers and staff at school who worked with minimum notice and technical constraints to produce the remote learning packs and online sessions for your children, whilst continuing to teach key worker and vulnerable children in school. I think you'll agree that the introduction to assembly live links and zoom lessons makes such a difference to the children; not only do they see their peers but also their esteemed teachers. We have also seen the introduction of some new laptops provided by the government to help with the remote learning.

For those families at home supporting child(ren) with their learning we certainly recognise the skills, patience and incredible aptitude that our teachers demonstrate every day. After all, if children could learn new concepts without specific teaching, we wouldn't need teachers. The teachers have spent hours putting together work to send home and they have done, and continue to do, their very best. They are working long hours and undertaking work outside of their comfort zones to video record content and conduct live links to enable as much remote learning as possible to support the home learning packs. The planning, preparation and pre-records are highly time consuming and staff have still been in school well into the evenings and working from home every night and weekends. They are doing all that they can and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to all the children.

For those of you with children at home, I completely understand how difficult it is to teach your children, whilst many of you are working from home. You are doing enough. You are loving the children in your care and supporting them through the most difficult circumstances. Look after yourself. Minimising stressors as much as possible at this time is vital for mental health; please don't let remote learning be the something that stresses you out. Please accept what is in your circle of control - as the primary educator at the moment, this is your call. The school make the provision of resources and the framework/structure to the lessons, it is really up to you how best your individual situation lends itself to its undertaking, some days will be better than others and that is OK. The school will continue to support you and your child whilst they are learning from home.

These are exceptionally difficult times, we are all doing our bit to get through the best that we can. Here's hoping for some welcome news from Prime Minister Johnson for the re-opening of school in early March. I wish you all continued good health and a well-deserved break during half term. I welcome any communication for the Governing Body directly to me or via the office email address.

Very Best Wishes

Mr C.W Cartwright
Chair of Governors

