

# St Pius X Catholic Primary School

## & Little Lambs Nursery



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Headteacher: Mr Kevin McGoldrick

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Friday, 12 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe it has nearly been a whole year since schools closed for the first time and St Pius X became a hub school for families across Barrow. Now we find ourselves in a third national lockdown and once again our school has remained open for vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers.

The last six weeks has not been easy but I am amazed at how our pupils, parents, staff and governors have responded and coped with the challenges these unprecedented times have presented. I am extremely proud of our school community.

The government have announced that schools in England will not return until 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at the earliest. Schools have been promised two weeks' notice of the government's plans of how the return will look. Therefore, we are expecting further guidance on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. I will communicate with you as soon as the guidance is released.

We've completed six weeks of remote learning (whoop whoop!) and we know we have at least another two weeks to face once we return after half term. Again, I am impressed with the number of children who have engaged with remote learning, whether that is via live Zoom lessons, accessing and completing work set on Showbie/Tapestry or a combination of both. I would like to remind you that we still have laptops available from the School Office. Devices are available for all families and include those who are sharing a device, working from a phone, etc. Please remember that these devices remain the property of the school and are only loaned to families. They must be returned when school returns.

Morrisons are donating 30 pizza making kits to our school for families during half-term. This is open to any family, regardless of the circumstances. Please send me a message on Class Dojo if you'd like a kit. First come, first served.

I am pleased to inform you that our school family continues to grow. We have four new pupils and a new member of staff starting with us after half-term. Mr Turner will be joining our team and will be supporting a pupil in Year 4. I am sure you will make them all very welcome.

We have made it to the end of a half-term without any COVID cases in school and without any bubble closures. What a relief! Let's hope our run of luck continues after half-term. Again, I would like to remind families to follow the government guidance. By doing so you are keeping our staff and community safe and are helping to stop the spread of the virus. Unfortunately, I have had to withdraw some school places this

*'Restore all things in Christ'*

term due to families not following the guidance. I appreciate there is a lot of information so I have included links below to allow you to familiarise yourselves with the guidance.

Support Bubbles - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household>

Childcare Bubbles - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>

As a school that Requires Improvement, there is a strong possibility we will receive a monitoring visit from Ofsted after half-term, which will focus on our remote learning offer and provision. With this in mind, I will be sending out a parental survey via Class Dojo. Please make every effort to complete it – there are only a few questions.

Today, I have presented all staff with a bunch of daffodils. Daffodil flowers begin to pop up when winter ends. They're a symbol of spring and symbolise new beginnings and rebirth. They're a positive, life-affirming symbol, with a bright and joyful yellow colour. Daffodils are strong, resilient flowers – just like our pupils and staff. Therefore, your half-term challenge is create daffodil to add to a display on our return. The display will symbolise the strength and resilience our school community has shown throughout the pandemic – adults are welcome to make a daffodil too.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a lovely half-term. I know you aren't able to make any exciting plans, but please enjoy some quality time as a family, without the pressures of remote learning. Please feel free to join us via Facebook live tonight at 6.30pm for Family Night.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Mr Kevin McGoldrick  
Headteacher