



*Sacred Heart Catholic Primary
School and Nursery*
Windermere Road,
Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2RF
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office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk



27th November 2020

Dear St. Paul Class Parents/Carers,

Update on teaching arrangements in St. Paul Class

I am writing to provide you with further information on the arrangements that are currently in place for the pupils of St. Paul Class.

COVID-19 continues to affect all schools. Schools across Southend, and indeed across the country, are experiencing great difficulties maintaining staffing levels. Recent weeks have seen a marked rise in the number of school staff required to self-isolate. As a result of this, a number of schools across Southend have had to apply arrangements similar to those in place for St. Paul Class. Alternatively, schools have had to close class bubbles due to operational difficulties (i.e. when staffing has not been available). Despite the staffing challenges we too are facing at Sacred Heart, we are pleased that we have managed to keep all of our children in school to date.

You will know that Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Melville and Mrs. Sowerby have been teaching St. Paul Class on-site while Mrs. Stanford has been working from home. Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Melville both work as 'Higher Level Teaching Assistants' (HLTAs) at the school so are qualified to teach the class on their own and cover planned absences. Mrs Stanford is also providing *some* of the teaching instruction via live-streaming sessions in order to maintain contact with the children across the week. Mr. Overton-Smith, who also teaches Year 4, has been an advisor to staff members working on-site. Throughout the process, senior leaders have also continued to monitor and support this temporary provision.

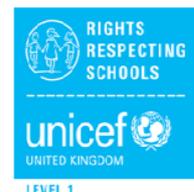
The Department of Education will shortly be releasing further guidance on the matter of 'clinically extremely vulnerable' staff and what measures will be applied when blanket national lockdown restrictions come to an end. Once this guidance is published, we will review our arrangements and provide parents/carers with a further update. Our hope is that Mrs. Stanford will be able to resume an on-site presence very soon.



Southend-on-Sea



Silver Quality
Mark 2013/14



Headteacher: Mrs Janet Mullally
Part of the Assisi Catholic Trust Ltd,
Registered address: Kenilworth Gdns, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS0 0BW
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If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Thank you again for your continued understanding and support during these exceptional times.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Janet Mullally
Headteacher



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