



St. Peter's CE Academy, Alton

Town Head, Alton, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST10 4AW

Telephone: 01538 702321

www.st-peters-alton.staffs.sch.uk

5 May 2020

To: All Parents and Carers

Dear all,

We hope you are all well as we enter our seventh week of lockdown. It goes without saying that we are missing you all hugely! Thank you so much for your ongoing support with keeping your children safe at home. Our three schools have remained open throughout the lockdown period to support pupils of our key workers and will remain so for as long as necessary.

There has been a lot of unhelpful media speculation regarding the reopening of schools and when this is likely to be. I receive daily updates from the DfE and no date has been suggested so far. As soon as I know, then I will of course communicate this with you immediately. Personally, I am hoping they will allow us to reopen a few weeks before we are due to break up for the summer. This would allow us time to reengage with our wonderful pupils and make some memories for our Year 4 children. I am guessing we will know more when Boris has addressed the nation at the end of this week.

There have been some requests for virtual lessons delivered by our teachers and I felt it necessary to explain why this will not be an option for our schools. To begin, there are some of our families who do not have access to Broadband. For these families, we are supplying them with printed work which they are collecting regularly from school. There are some who don't have access to laptops or tablets and for these families we have loaned our school devices for them to complete work on throughout this period. It has been so incredibly important to us all that we provide our children with equal opportunities when it comes to the work we are sending through. It would be therefore, hugely unfair for some families to miss out on virtual lessons whilst others benefit. The DfE updated their guidance for parents during lockdown on May 1st which you can access via the link below. We have also printed copies for our parents with no Broadband access, which are now available in school. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Our teachers have been working tirelessly since lockdown started. As previously mentioned, our schools have remained open for children of key workers and all staff have been in school at points throughout the week to care for these pupils. We are so grateful to them for being so positive throughout this period and always offering to be on the rotas each week. They have also been busy planning work, adding to our incredible websites, completing safeguarding training, producing new knowledge mats, delivering food parcels to our vulnerable families... the list is endless. I met with Mrs Bennett this morning at St Peter's and we both said how proud we are to work with such committed and passionate staff. I am sure you will join with us both to thank them for all they have been and are continuing to do.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We hope to see you all very soon!

Best wishes

Mrs Walker and Mrs Bennett

The Saints Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs R Walker

Deputy Executive Headteacher: Mrs A Bennett

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Town Head
Alton
Stoke on Trent
Staffordshire
ST10 4AW

Tel: 01538 702321

Email: office@st-peters-alton.staffs.sch.uk

Web: www.st-peters-alton.staffs.sch.uk



All Saints CE Academy, Denstone

Oak Road
Denstone
Uttoxeter
Staffordshire
ST14 5HT

Tel: 01889 590418

Email: office@allsaints-denstone.staffs.sch.uk

Web: www.allsaints-denstone.staffs.sch.uk



St Augustine's CE Academy

Pipehay Lane
Draycott in the Clay
Ashbourne
Derbyshire
DE6 5BY

Tel: 01283 820365

Email: office@st-augustines.staffs.sch.uk

Web: www.st-augustines.staffs.sch.uk

