



27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well and coping as well as can be expected with the lockdown and school closure.

As a result of the current crisis, we have had to take the decision to cancel the trip to Spain in November and the ski trip to Italy. The June trip to Spain and the PGL Netball trip in May have sadly, if unsurprisingly are also unable to take place. Parents will have the money already paid fully refunded and we aim to do this as soon as possible but ask for your patience as we process this with the travel company and the insurance.

Starting last week, pastoral staff have been contacting those parents we have not previously spoken to, in order to check on the welfare of your children and offer any support we can. We hope to complete this by the end of this week. I hope you have found the call reassuring and useful, as I am aware that trying to manage children's learning away from school and the normal routines can be challenge. We have been listening carefully to your comments and teachers have been developing improved personalised learning resources, many of which you have commented on favourably. If you have any concerns you would like to raise about your child's wellbeing, please do get in touch with school, and we will try to help.

We have also texted a new email address for those who do not have their login details for Show My Homework which is showmyhomeworkpin@stbedesblackburn.com Once pupils have accessed Show My Homework, they can message their teacher if they have difficulties accessing websites for those individual subject (for example, Mathswatch). They should also use the messaging facility on Show My Homework if they have any questions about their learning in a particular subject.

I have also included on the website some guidance and advice on keeping children safe online which you may find useful, as well the latest government guidance on education provision during the closure which can be accessed in this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>



St Bede's

Roman Catholic High School

Believe all things are possible

I also just want to repeat again the message that, although it is important that some school-based learning forms part of the healthy routines that your children will need during the lockdown, I don't want pupils or parents to be overburdened or becoming anxious about not being able to complete some tasks set by their teachers. I will be discussing this with teachers next week but as parents and carers please have the confidence to put limits on how long some task might be taking your children to complete and also look at other learning resources that have recently been released including BBC Bitesize (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>) and the National Oak Academy (<https://www.thenational.academy/>). I would also strongly encourage reading for pleasure as part of your child's learning; apart from improving their literacy, it is also a huge benefit to children's mental health and wellbeing.

Finally, I hope you have seen the messages from the staff at school to the pupils. If you haven't been able to access it, this can be viewed through the school's website: <https://twitter.com/StBedesRCHS/status/1254727187455975425>

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

D Callaghan
Headteacher