



CATHOLIC  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

83 St. Charles Square  
London W10 6EB  
Telephone: 020 8969 5566  
Facsimile: 020 8960 4338  
e-mail: [info@st-charles.rbkc.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-charles.rbkc.sch.uk)  
[www.st-charles.rbkcsch.uk](http://www.st-charles.rbkcsch.uk)  
Executive Head: Ann Slavin  
Head of School: Tony Lynch  
Assistant Head: Marily Troyano

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I sent a text message yesterday to all parents to highlight our concern about some parents/carers who have had little or no contact with the School since Christmas. You will appreciate the seriousness of this as a safeguarding concern. It is the School's legal duty to identify and report any serious child safety concerns as and when they become apparent. This includes pupils who are not engaging with learning or are absent from school. This task is difficult when the children are in School but even harder while they are at home and unseen by us. This is one of the reasons why we expect children to regularly engage with their on-line learning.

We are aware of some families who have difficulty accessing the on-line learning platform due to lack of hardware, cost of internet connection or technical difficulties logging on. We have based this on the responses to the audit we sent out last summer and subsequent conversations with parents/carers. We are working hard to address these issues and we hope to be able to allocate devices shortly. (Please note, the devices will be allocated using the Governments priority criteria. See below).

Please remember that you can also contact class teachers via the class email if you have any concerns or difficulties with the work set. Details of the class emails have been circulated in previous communications. However, if you do not have this information, or if you are having difficulties with accessing or sending back work, please contact the School Office for advice. A helpful video is also available on the front page of the website.

Children should also be attending the daily virtual class meetings, so as to keep in touch with their peers and to discuss work with their class teacher. Again, contact the Office or the class teacher if you need details of how to access this sent again.

For the reasons I have already outlined, it is important that we have daily, or at least, weekly engagement with your child. If we have not had any contact with your child within a two-week period, then we will endeavor to contact you to discuss the reasons why and to offer support where we can. If your contact details have changed recently, then please contact the Office to update our records.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the staff at St Charles, to thank you for everything you are doing to support your children during these trying times. Please do not think for one moment that we underestimate the difficulties and challenges you are all facing. Trying to support your children at home has required you to take on roles you had never expected, or wanted! Such as untrained teacher, technician, therapist, disciplinarian, theologian, entertainer. That is in addition to maintaining your roles as a parent, ie cook, cleaner, shopper, organiser, washer, nurse, etc can only add to your levels of stress. We are living through the most difficult of times but together, with God's help, we will get through it.

Please remember, we are here and we are ready to support you in any way we can. But we need to know! So please do not hesitate to get in touch with us to discuss any issues with work or behavior at home, or just to let us know that you are ok. Do try to find time for yourself too and maybe consider accessing our wellbeing resources as we send them out.

With best regards,

**Tony Lynch**

Head of school

Safeguard Lead

## **Government's priority criteria for devices**

- disadvantaged children who do not have access to a device and whose face-to-face education is disrupted
- disadvantaged children in any year group who have been [advised to shield](#) because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable
- with no digital devices in their household
- whose only available device is a smartphone
- with a single device in their household that's being shared with more than one other family member