



Holy Trinity Rosehill CofE (VA) Primary School

Upsall Grove, Fairfield, Stockton-On-Tees, TS19 7QU

T: 01642 581239



W: www.holytrinityrosehill.org.uk

E: holytrinityrosehill@sbcschools.org.uk

f facebook.com/htrosehill

Head Teacher: Mrs A Swift

Chair of Governors: Mrs C Himsworth

Friday 18th December 2020 newsletter

As we come to the end of a year which has been full of challenges, I would like to wish all of our children, staff, families and Governors a peaceful and restful Christmas. Your support for our school has been amazing and has helped us through the difficult times.

I hope you enjoyed our re-telling of 'The Greatest Story Ever Told'

www.holytrinityrosehill.org.uk/the-greatest-story-ever-told-christmas-2020

Stay safe

Mrs. Swift – Head Teacher

The theme of our Collective Worship this week has been 'Advent – a time to wait'.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



A poem about our school – written by a Y6 child (in their own time)

School is a fun place,
Where everyone has a smile on their face!
This school has endless trust,
Being smart is a must.
This school is a school of God,
People can reply with just a nod.
We come to school 5 days a week,
but we go home and have a deep sleep.
If you hurt your knee, we'll get some ice,
In worship we are as quiet as mice.
If you come and do maths,
I'm sure you'll have a good laugh.
We like to discuss.

So come and join us!

Rosehill site drop off arrangements starting Tuesday 5th January 2021

Having reviewed our current system, we are making a change to the drop-off arrangements on Rosehill site from Tuesday 5th January.

Parents/carers will be able to drop off children at 8.45 a.m. (currently 8.40 a.m.) **until 8.55 a.m.**

Please note this new time for when school returns in January.

Thank you for your continued support with our drop off and collection routines.

Parent Ambassador meeting

Last week we had our first Parent Ambassador meeting of this year. It was a productive meeting where Ambassadors and I reviewed this term, discussed concerns and next steps for our school. Parking was an issue that was, once again, discussed. Although the extended drop-off times have improved the situation some adults still insist on parking dangerously outside of school.

If you are concerned about parking please contact the Local Parking Enforcement team on **01642 393939**.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Ambassador please email school holytrinityrosehill@sbcschools.org.uk. Ambassadors meet every half-term - during this time we are meeting via Zoom.

The role of Parent Ambassador is an informal one – the group helps me to review events and activities in school and gives me the opportunity to discuss future ideas before formally presenting them to staff, governors and parents/carers:

- To work alongside our Head Teacher and other leaders in school to further develop communication and links with parents, carers and families in our school community
- To promote our school within our community
- To review previous events/activities and school and to discuss upcoming events/activities
- To represent other parents/carers and all children in our school
- To share successes and concerns

Stockton Baptist Church Children's Christmas show

A message from Lydia who leads worship in school:

'Our Children's Christmas Show is a video that's been put together by Doug Horley (Duggie Dug Dug) and includes some of the families from Stockton Baptist Church. There will be songs, puppets and a Christmas message and it lasts about 20 minutes. It's going to be shown on our YouTube channel at 3.00pm on 24th December.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=el8J4AexQyY>

Carol Service

Holy Trinity with St Mark church would like to invite you to their open air carol service outside of church on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

It would be lovely to see you there.



**The
story
of Christmas
tells how light
shines through
closed doors
and into
life**



Peter Catford, Methodist Minister, led Collective Worship via Zoom this week. He asked each class to choose two images they would put into an Advent Calendar and created this Advent Calendar for Worship.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

Due to the resignation of one of our Lunchtime Supervisors, we have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisor to start work as soon as possible. Our Governing Body wish to appoint an enthusiastic and motivated Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant to supervise children during the lunchtime period. The successful candidate will have experience of working with children and of working well in a team.

Details of the position including the Job Description and Persons Specification can be found on our website in About Us section - General Information – Vacancies

www.holytrinityrosehill.org.uk/vacancies-2

Please note the following key dates for this appointment.

- Closing Date: Friday 8th January 2021 12 noon
- Shortlisting: Friday 8th January 2021
- Interview date: Monday 18th January 2021

'One of my proudest moments': MP opens revamped school after visiting class in run down building

A Teesside MP has visited a transformed [school](#) after recognising "the staff and kids deserved and needed something better."

[Matt Vickers](#), MP for Stockton South, visited Holy Trinity Rosehill CofE (VA) Primary School shortly after being elected in January.



Whilst on the initial visit, speaking to pupils and teachers it became clear to the conservative MP that the school's nursery needed vast improvements.

The early years facility, on Upsall Grove, [Stockton](#), was run-down and operating from a temporary building.

Mr Vickers supported the school executive, taking up the need for funds with the [council](#) which subsequently agreed to contribute towards the work.

Alongside funding from the diocese meant improvements could be made to the nursery and several classrooms, creating a better environment with better equipment and resources.

After the work was completed the MP visited the school, which caters for children aged three to 11, once again.

After seeing the improvements, he said: "In many ways this is one of my proudest moments as MP, doing a small part to help local youngsters get better facilities and the best start in life.

"This is such a fantastic school with hardworking, bright pupils and teachers who go that extra mile every single day.

"Not only does the school offer pupils a great education but it instills a sense of community and teaches youngsters to reach for the stars.

"The nursery building really wasn't in a good way and without a doubt, the staff and kids deserved and needed something better.

After working alongside the school and council to get that extra cash all those months ago, to standing here today and seeing the amazing improvements is such a wonderful feeling.

"We now have a wonderful nursery fit for a wonderful school"

The school's headteacher said the children are now "flourishing" thanks to the additional funding.

Andrea Swift said: "We are delighted that the work to transform our school nursery has now being completed and our children begin their learning journey in a stimulating and continuously caring environment.



"The youngest members of our school family are flourishing which is wonderful to see.

"After visiting our school and talking to some of our children, Mr Vickers helped to secure additional funding to allow this transformation to happen.


"We are really excited to welcome him back to see the difference his support has made for our children and families at Holy Trinity Rosehill CofE Primary".

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Sacred Spaces for Advent

We have continued to explore moments of stillness found in the Christmas story and wanted to share some more ideas you might like to do at home.






Walk Together

Next time you are out for a walk with your family, walk next to someone.

Notice how even though you are different people, you start to walk in step with each other. Families are full of different people, who walk through life together. Take a moment to say a quiet prayer, wish or hope for your family.





Instructions for 'Walk Together'

You will need:

- An adult to accompany you on your walk

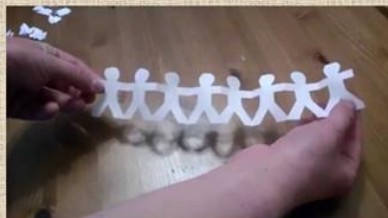
Wherever you are heading, walk next to someone in your family and watch how you start to walk in time with each other. Take some time to say a quiet prayer, a wish or hope for your family and those around you.






Family Chain

Create a people paper chain. Who are the people in your chain? It might be family members or close friends. What are the qualities you like about them? Write the good things about them on each person.





Instructions for 'Family Chain'

You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors

Make a paper chain of people. On each person, write a list of qualities you like about that person. How many people can you join?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you that you made each us different and that we all have unique gifts and talents to share. Help us to listen to one another and to work together to make our world a better place. Amen



Clock Help

Draw a large clock face on a piece of paper and then draw a line down the middle. Each half represents 30 minutes. Think about the people in your house. Who could you give 30 minutes of your time to? Write their name in one half of the clock, and how you're going to help them. If you can't think of anything, ask them what they need help with.



Instructions for 'Clock Help'

You will need:

- A piece of paper
- Something to write with

Draw a clock face and a line down the middle to mark 30 minutes. Who could you help in your house? Write their name in one half and the different ways you can help them for 30 minutes.

Mass testing in schools: <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/15/mass-testing-in-schools-your-questions-answered/>

On Tuesday we [announced](#) that teachers and pupils will have access to rapid testing from the start of the new school term. Here we answer some key questions about this important step.

What does today's announcement mean?

Staff and pupils will have access to rapid testing from January to help as many pupils as possible to continue to be able to attend schools and colleges because that is what is best for their education and wellbeing.

All secondary schools and colleges, including special schools and alternative provision settings, will be offered test kits to facilitate weekly testing of the secondary school and college workforce.

This will be coupled with serial testing of close contacts for both staff and pupils in secondary schools and colleges. This will help preserve face-to-face education by preventing close contacts from needing to self-isolate at home.

So will you be routinely testing pupils as well?

Staff at secondary schools and colleges will be routinely tested. Both staff and students will be offered daily tests if they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case so that they can stay in school or college, rather than isolate.

What about primary schools and early years settings?

We are prioritising secondary schools and colleges because they face greater disruption and because we want to ensure support for pupils and students in crucial exam years. The next step will be to roll out testing in primary schools. We are looking at how mass testing can best support the early years sector and we will work with local authorities and the sector to inform plans for mass testing in early years settings. We will announce more details as soon as we can.

Why are you doing this?

To ensure as many young people as possible continue to receive high quality, face to face education; and to break chains of transmission of the virus.

How will this actually help ensure face to face education?

This will help identify asymptomatic cases – which make up a third of all cases – limiting the spread of the virus.

Staff and pupils who are close contacts of cases will be eligible for daily testing, eliminating the need for immediate self-isolation. Only if a daily test returns a positive result will the staff member need to isolate. This means fewer staff members will need to isolate, ensuring they can continue teaching, and fewer pupils/students will need to isolate, enabling them to attend.

Who will be doing the testing in schools and colleges?

The Government is supporting all schools and colleges to set up appropriate spaces on site that can be used for testing. Schools and colleges are supplied with test kits and PPE and training will be provided. We will provide an advice line and guidance to support schools.

Are the tests compulsory? Will my child be forced to take a test if I don't want them to? What if teachers and staff don't want to be tested?

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The tests aren't compulsory. However, staff and students who experience COVID-19 symptoms must continue to follow government guidance as normal, including immediate self-isolation and should book a test through nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

What will happen if my child's test result is positive or if a teacher tests positive?

They will need to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. This means:

- They will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test
- You can stop self-isolating on day 11 if they haven't had a high temperature for 48 hours and are well
- people they live with must self-isolate for 14 days from when they start self-isolating

And what if it is negative?

Pupils will be able to carry on going to school and teachers will be able to carry on working.

What type of test will be used?

Lateral flow tests will be used in the first instance. These deliver a result in 30 minutes. If it is negative then pupils and teachers will be able to carry on as usual. If it's positive then they will have to isolate and get a second test that will be processed in a lab.

Does that mean the lateral flow tests aren't conclusive?

There is a low chance of false positive tests – that is why the secondary test is necessary. There is also a low chance that lateral flow tests don't pick up positive cases because they aren't as sensitive as lab-based tests. That is why there will be serial tests for close contacts of positive cases – they will be tested repeatedly over a number of days to ensure they are not positive.

Will the tests happen in schools?

Yes. Schools and colleges will need to arrange suitable spaces for the tests, storage for testing kits – they need to be kept between 2c and 30c – and for daily cleaning of the area. Further guidance will be provided.

You keep saying more guidance will be provided as soon as you can – why not just wait until all that is available?

We want to give schools and colleges as much time as possible to prepare for this although we appreciate that this is happening quickly. That is why we announcing this now and then providing more guidance as soon as we can.