

SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School

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11.01.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

Firstly, can I say thank you for taking note of all the information that is being sent home from school. In particular, all the communication with regards to remote home learning.

For the past week we have in-school provision for those from our key worker families our vulnerable children, whilst providing online remote teaching to all our pupils at home. Can we emphasise that the children in school are doing the same online learning as the children at home. We have been able to reach this point thanks to the efforts of staff in preparing and improving our systems, whilst adapting to ever-changing circumstances.

What is clear from this week, however, is that the number of pupils eligible to attend school under the critical worker provision is much higher than during the first lockdown. We therefore need to ensure that we can accommodate those most in need whilst recognising that we must continue to do everything that we can to keep staff and pupils as safe as possible in school in light of recent Coronavirus developments.

As I am sure you will understand, running a dual system of educating and supervising children in school, whilst providing remote learning to those children at home places an additional logistical staffing burden on the school as teachers are deployed to online teaching whilst staff are still required in the classrooms for those being educated in school. The extremely rapid rate of transmission of the virus at the moment means that we must do everything we can to protect our school community: pupils, parents and staff alike.

The guidance from the Department for Education has been updated in the last 48 hours reiterating that whilst children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school if required, parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

For our part, we must stress that places in school for critical worker children are finite and we ask that you only take up a place if absolutely necessary. As a community, we must ensure that there is space for our healthcare workers' children and other vital roles that are actively helping to fight the pandemic. Many of our critical workers, particularly hospital and frontline medical staff, will be working additional hours and covering multiple shifts and we want to ensure that we prioritise those with the most urgent need.

It is our desire is to accommodate parents' needs as far as possible whilst keeping children and staff in school safe but, just like other schools, we are balancing difficult priorities. While

we have carried out all the required risk assessments and put the relevant procedures in place to keep school safe. However, we ask you to consider only sending your child to school if it is absolutely necessary in order to carry out your critical worker role. Parents should discuss any continuing difficulties with their own employer's HR department.

The safest place for children to be accessing remote learning is from home.

Thank you in advance for your help and support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs M. Elliott', written in a cursive style.

Mrs M. Elliott

Head Teacher