

Friday 22nd May

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

First of all, I write in the hope that you are all keeping as safe and well as possible at what continues to be a worrying and sometimes stressful time for us all.

Hopefully this week you will have spoken to your class teacher although I know some of you missed the calls. The school phone is constantly on, remember please call and leave a message, we will always get back to you. In addition the teachers regularly update their blogs, please keep checking as I know some people have missed news and suggestions regarding work and activities.

One or two parents have asked about 'video' lessons with their teachers and although disappointed with the response our answer remains. There are a number of families who do not have adequate devices and there are some without broadband. Therefore we have decided as a Catholic school not to discriminate on the grounds of income. We all miss the social contact and the reassurance of a familiar face however we cannot leave some out.

Today Year 6 should have returned from their residential and school would have closed for half term. Although it will not feel like a 'holiday' and we cannot go too far I am suggesting you take a break. If your house is anything like mine as the weeks go on home learning seems to get harder. My advice is to take a break and for the next two weeks try where possible to establish a different routine. Treat it like half term and take the pressure off. You can of course continue to work if you choose; I suggest BBC Bitesize and the Oak Academy or catch up on some of our weekly tasks but please remember the mental health and well-being of you all is more important. Everyone is in the same position and when we do return fully, that will be the time to catch up.

Although the staff are in next week planning and preparing the site, school is physically closed, however the phone will still be answered. On Monday 1st June we will reopen to children of key workers, as we have been every day since March 20th and the week after we will gradually reopen to more children. As numbers increase I would like to remind you that **both parents** have to be classed as key workers in order to get a place in this scheme. We cannot accommodate children where one parent is not a key worker and can therefore provide childcare.

Plans have continued this week to welcome more children back in June, thank you very much for your responses to the survey of Reception, Years 1 and 6. At present we are undertaking a risk assessment and we will be able to share with the relevant parents the plan on Monday 1st June. However we do know the return will be gradual and because of the numbers interested it will be part time. Thank you for your

patience; the guidance and rules have created a logistical nightmare but please be assured we will make the best of an unusual and challenging situation.

As ever we are here if you need us, please get in touch if we can help or contact me in confidence if you know of a family that requires some extra support.

Stay safe

God bless

Mark