



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Archdiocese of  
Birmingham

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents

***No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others.***

Here we are at the end of a very challenging term that has seen us move into remote teaching as a daily and weekly way of life. Thank you to those of you who took part in the parent survey. Now more than ever, it is important to maintain as much communication as is possible. Thank you for keeping in touch with your teachers and supporting your children with their remote learning. So many of you have contacted us for help, which is great. It is what we are here for. Hopefully we will be back together again as a school very soon. I will of course keep you posted via text and the school website.

We are continuing to explore ways of further developing our remote provision through screen free activities, giving time away from the screen as well as providing for the development of key skills that cannot be performed virtually. We will provide further information after half term; some great suggestions were given on the parent Zoom today too! All remote learning activities for the first week back will be posted in the usual way and will be ready for Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

The Governing Body and myself are rightly proud of the staff who have pulled together and given 100% to providing safety, learning, understanding and support to the children, yourselves and each other. I am truly proud to be a part of this very special team and that includes you.

Thank you to those of you who joined me on Zoom this morning. There are definite regulars, which is great to see. I will be continuing with these Zoom meetings every other week after half term so if you haven't joined yet, you are all most welcome. It is a time to share issues and ask questions. I use it as an opportunity to talk about ideas, communication due out and to ask opinions on thoughts and ideas. Today I would like to thank those who attended for their ideas and suggestions. As always, your views are important to us. One clear message that came out today was your appreciation of the remote learning provision and also the shared concern we all have for our children's wellbeing. I can assure you that we will continue to strive to support all of our children in this and again, the ideas and suggestions for tackling this remotely were great. Thank you again!

Last week we started a parent support group led by Mrs Eaborn via Zoom. The plan is for this to take place during the alternate weeks to my Friday Zoom. These will always take place on a Wednesday and are provided to talk about any difficulties you are experiencing and any worries that you have. These can relate to your parental role, worries about your children, anything really that you want to share and we will do our utmost to support you. We have a slogan for this - YOU CAN'T POUR FROM AN EMPTY CUP. In other words, how can we give of our best and





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be the best we can be if we are worried, so a trouble shared will be a trouble halved. We have been in this together since March and we will come out of it together – older and wiser but together!! The next one will be scheduled for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021, invites will be sent out on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Parents have contacted Mrs Eaborn and would like these meetings to be themed around what parents need advice and support with so at next meeting Mrs Eaborn will be collecting your ideas. This will give us the chance to plan the sessions around your needs and source appropriate resources to help.

Provision for key worker parents will continue after half term. Employers are putting incredible pressure on many of you now to go back into work and many of you have contacted us for provision in school. It is so hard to maintain low numbers and safety and with this added pressure and looking after staff wellbeing, myself and Mrs McDonagh are trying our best to support where we can to accommodate your child safely. I apologise to those of you who cannot have the days you need but please be assured that we review the position weekly and are doing our best. As this situation continues after half term, I ask that you consider any requests very seriously. Years 2, 3 and 4 are reaching capacity now. In line with Government guidelines I have to keep classes as small as possible to allow for social distancing and staff safety and wellbeing. I can have no more than 30 in any one year group per day and have to stick to this decision. As I have said before, each family situation is considered separately but I do need to state that from this point on, preference will have to be given to NHS workers.

One final note regarding catering. Tina and her team, like all of the staff have worked tirelessly to provide for the children in school and Mrs Hunt has ensured that the voucher scheme is working for all those families who need support. Until we hear any updates on school return, for those children accessing provision in KS2, payments for lunches will be set weekly.

I must inform you that when school does resume, the KS2 meal provision will be a cold service. Tina has produced an exciting menu plan with daily specials which will be shared with KS2 parents once we have a definite plan for school return. Thank you again for your constant support and understanding, we look forward now to lighter mornings and warmer weather. Enjoy a happy and safe half term whatever you do.

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury  
Headteacher

