

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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18th January 2021

Dear parents

We can believe that Jesus is in our situation with us, and even though sometimes it feels as if He is sleeping through our STORM, we can know that he is still able to tell the storm to BE STILL- and when he does, it will STOP.

This is my first letter to you this year! 2021 has started in the most unusual way possible and we now find ourselves in the world of remote learning again. Thank you for your support over the last two weeks as we have, as a school, put in a tremendous amount of effort to continue to provide high quality teaching and learning for all pupils. The teachers and teaching assistants are becoming accustomed to this new way of working as no doubt you are too.

I want to say thank you to those key worker parents who have looked carefully at their working week and made changes to the days their children access provision. We are happy to offer provision where it is needed but our aim is to keep numbers in school as low as we can to maintain safety for all the staff and pupils in school.

We will continue to work hard to provide the very best and relevant remote provision for your child. As it states in our Remote Learning Policy, of which you had a copy last year and it is on the website, you as the parent have a responsibility to enable your child to access the learning provision and submit work to the teachers. The live links that are a part of everyday remote learning enable the teachers to monitor those children who are able to get online and participate. Any families who we haven't seen or have not received work from, teachers are contacting, and I am following up.

It is so important that we work together. Thank you to many of you who have contacted your teachers for support, and I am pleased to say that we have some great procedures in place to support both you and your child. We are always on the end of the telephone or email to support you.

I had a very positive Zoom meeting with parents on Friday and wanted to share some points with you all. There was overwhelming gratitude for everything that we are doing as a school to support you and the virtual live meetings and lessons are proving to be very beneficial. It is lovely to know how much the children enjoy seeing their teachers online. I did say to parents that we are constantly evolving our practise and they completely understood.

There were some parents who asked about parent chat groups and support for each other so that you can share information, much as you would do on the gate. Little reminders are always

















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useful and also sharing any issues with each other; one parent said that it is comforting to know that others are feeling the same. WhatsApp and Facebook are forums that we are all familiar with and I myself know how important it is to be able to share worries and to support others, particularly at this time. The outcome of this has been that a closed Facebook group for parents has been set up and parents on the Zoom offered to add other parents from their year group to their WhatsApp groups. If you are struggling and want to be part of your year group chat, then please let me know. Unfortunately, I cannot set up one from school, this has to be done between yourselves, but I am happy to facilitate it if any parents are struggling. We are all in this together.

I look forward to holding my parent zoom meetings every two weeks, please do join if you can. The next one is on Friday 29th January at 9.30am. Thank you again to those parents who did join me.

For any of you struggling with reading materials for your children, the link on some year group pages to Oxford Owl is very useful. Mrs Holland is pursuing another link which we will inform you of as soon as we can. We are trying to avoid where possible, lending books from school for very obvious reasons. See links below for reading support.

Oxford Reading Tree	https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/
Oxford Reading Tree	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d02OFSS4UtE&feature=youtu.be
Support Video	
Phonics Play Support Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lew5QO10h_c

Thank you again for your constant support and understanding.

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury Headteacher













