



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, Love

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Head Teacher: Mrs Wendy D'Arcy

Thursday 18th June 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope that you are all safe and well.

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to let you know that after considering the most recent government guidelines and exploring various options, we will not be able to have all children back in school before the end of this academic year. As I'm sure you will appreciate, the safety of the children and staff are paramount and I am not willing to compromise this. The restrictions that are currently in place - 2m social distancing, means that most of our classrooms allow for no more than 10 children. The result is that we can only accommodate small groups of children with staff members in order to provide for the safety and well-being of all.

I acknowledge that other schools have chosen to deviate from the DFE guidelines and have set up rota systems and staff are moving between bubbles within one week. This is not in line with the guidance and actually puts staff and children at an increased risk of infection.

Currently, our Key Worker group, including our vulnerable children continues to grow on a daily basis and this, alongside YR, Y1 and Y6 are in line with the government's priority. For our Key Worker families, we are providing wrap around care using school staff, to enable vital services to continue and therefore have reduced teaching staff and support staff to cater for other year groups. Therefore, with these factors taken into consideration and without putting any adult or child at risk, we cannot facilitate the return of any more children.

Following the roadmap that I originally sent to you, we had planned to have all children back at some point and therefore, closing the email communication with class teachers before half term was done with this in mind, alongside managing staff workload.

However, we take on board your feedback with regards to the disconnect between home and school for some children who have not returned and the impact this has had on some children's motivation to learn. Therefore, going forward for children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 class teachers will:

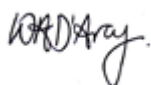
- Communicate either via letter or email to the children on a weekly basis to start the week off

- The work set on the website will be different. There will be a clear sequence of learning in literacy and the maths work will be revisiting concepts already taught following the class format that the children are familiar with.
- From Monday – Thursday, children in Y2 and Y5 can submit that day's work by 1pm if they would like feedback from their teacher. Children in Y3 and Y4 can submit work on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday by 1pm if they would like feedback.
- If you and or your child would like a telephone conversation with the class teacher, there will be an opportunity for you to sign up to this on the home learning page.

For those children from YR, Y1 and Y6 who have not returned, they are welcome to send in their work within the timescales outlined above (Monday-Thursday), but they will need to continue to use Oak Academy resources. This website is funded and supported by the DFE.

As I am sure you will agree, the current situation is not ideal for anybody and we are doing our absolute best for our children and families. Sadly, this is my last term as Headteacher and I would have loved more than ever to see our fabulous children before I leave. Unfortunately, this is not possible. However, we will continue to work in partnership with you and the children, so that we can celebrate their work and hopefully, reignite their enjoyment of learning.

Yours sincerely



Wendy D'Arcy
Headteacher