



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Holloway, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BB

Tel: 01666 822331; Email: admin@st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.st-josephs-malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear parents

I am sure that at this point you are all aware of the DfE guidance that school will be partially closed from Tuesday 5th January 2021 until February half term, following the announcement Boris Johnson made last night.

These have been difficult times for us all and I firstly would like to thank all of the St Joseph's staff for their commitment and hard work. Every member of staff attended school yesterday and the commitment to the school and serving the community was exemplary. I could not be prouder of the staff team! As a school we have worked hard to continue providing lessons, following our risk assessments for the Covid-19 pandemic. These can be found on our school website in the coronavirus tab/risk assessments. Our priority has been to keep the school community going and together.

As you may be aware from the announcement yesterday, schools will remain open for children identified as a child with a parent who is a key worker or if your child has a social worker or an Education Health Care plan (EHCP).

I must remind you that your child must remain at home unless identified in the groups specified above. Please remember if anyone in the family is displaying symptoms they should book a test and call 119 and the family members should self-isolate until the result comes back negative or isolate for 10 days if the test returns positive.

During term time we will continue to provide a programme of work for children to access online and paper based learning. Each class will be contacted by their teacher or teaching assistant through Dojo with daily activities to complete. We suggest that you try to keep to a timetable, which suits your family commitments, to keep a sense of routine for your children through their home learning. Please see the remote learning policy on the school website in the Coronavirus tab. Your class teacher will inform you of the lessons and their format.

As I am sure you understand, this has happened incredibly fast and the teachers have worked hard to ensure that remote learning has been available today for you all following



the announcement at 8pm last night. The teachers and TAs will aim to reply to messages on a daily basis, however this may not be instant, and as I am sure you understand this would not be possible. Please be aware that all teachers and TAs are on a rota to work in school as well as providing remote learning and they will not be able to provide feedback during their days in school.

Please can I ask that you limit your Dojo communication to teachers to between the hours of 9am and 4pm. This will give them the opportunity to prepare for learning and reply to any queries. You may notice that our TAs also have Dojo and we are happy for any queries to go to a TA also, however they will only be able to respond within their working hours.

We understand for some parents accessing information online may be difficult so please continue to carry out the learning in the exercise books provided. **We would be grateful if you were able to call at the school gate to collect your child's exercise books over the next few days.** Many thanks

If you would like further information on the latest government guidance you can find more here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The Chief Medical Officer provided new advice around self-isolation and Public Health England have updated their web pages so we would encourage you to review the updated information online.

DfE Helpline for Corona Virus queries: Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

10am – 4pm Saturday and Sunday

We completely understand that remote learning is difficult to carry out with family life and work commitments and we thank you all for all your efforts and hard work. Remember parents to look after yourselves, take a moment, put your feet up and enjoy a cup of tea or a listen to your favourite Take That track ...you have earned it!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your understanding and support during this difficult time and all the very kind supportive comments I and the teachers have had, your support has meant a lot at this difficult time.

Stay safe, keep in touch and God bless.

Kind regards

Mrs Sue Woods

Headteacher