



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Looking forward to the half term break on Monday, it goes without saying that term 3 has been difficult for many of us; whether you are a parent home schooling; a pupil missing school; a teacher or teaching assistant, juggling blended remote learning and key worker bubbles in school; office staff and support staff ensuring school continues to operate with the additional tasks of covid-19; or indeed myself, coordinating all members of the community listed whilst endeavoring to carry out the day job! We **all** need to be kind to ourselves and each other recognising that in these unusual and difficult times we are all doing our best for our families, children and community. We need to take any undue pressure off ourselves and remember that we have done well to keep each other safe and well. Let's stay positive, whilst supporting each other as best we can. We aim to do what is right for all our own personal circumstances. Thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding.

As we are continually reviewing and improving our blended remote learning provision, that all staff have worked tirelessly to provide. I feel it is important to celebrate many of the positives that the staff have achieved over this term, we have ensured:

- support for all children, through live/recorded lessons and setting independent work
- support for families answering queries on the phone/dojo/email
- distribution of free School Meals Vouchers has been ongoing throughout all bubble closures and during Lockdown 3.
- welfare calls are made to every member of the school
- feed-back is provided on the amazing work returned to school
- all staff are on the end of the phone to speak to parents and children
- paper packs are provided for those who require support with printed sheets
- every child has had exercise books delivered/picked up from week one of lockdown
- additional learning support sessions for children to access on request
- key worker bubbles running in school from Tuesday 5th January
- all staff trained ready to transition remote learning to TEAMS from February 22nd
- all classes, children and passwords set up across the school ready for a smooth TEAMS transition
- parent Support Advisor is available to support parents

The list goes on, but this is only possible with the ongoing support, kindness and care from the parents throughout. Parents, you have matched this ongoing list with the immense work, teaching, guiding, listening, talking and having fun with your child/ren. WELL DONE Parents. However most importantly our school would not be so great without the wonderful children that make St Joseph's so special. We continue to be

very proud of all the great work you have been doing....keep it up! It therefore goes without saying I am hugely proud of the way the St Joseph's community has pulled together, and although we may not be together in person, we are definitely together in heart and spirit!

Remember to bear with us as we make this transition to using TEAMS. **Day 1 on TEAMS will be Monday 22nd February, first day back after half term.** This will be new for many of you and your children please take time to familiarise and play with the system before the school starts to use this with you after half term.

If you have not received your child's password and email address for Microsoft Teams you must contact the school office as soon as possible.

From Monday 22nd February **please do NOT send work by Dojo any longer.** This should **only be used** for its original purpose of communicating messages to teachers in unusual circumstances.

We pray this transition goes as smoothly as possible, please bear with us, as we have tried to give as much notice and information prior to switch over day. Also understand that this is new for our staff and please support them as we delve into the world of TEAMS as a community!

Turning to half term break, it's time to switch off the laptop! May I wish you all a peaceful time with your family.

We all look forward to the full reopening of school, whenever that will be.

Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, patience and understanding.
Stay safe, God Bless

Mrs Sue Woods
Headteacher