

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter: school closure newsletter 1: 1.04.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now on the seventh day since the school closed on Friday 20 March and it seems a long time since we've seen each other. Since then, tougher restrictions on everyday life have been imposed, commonly known as the lockdown. This is hard for everyone and I really hope you and your families are coping. I think we all have good and not so good days. It's easy to get overloaded with information and exhausted by the enormity of our current situation. Everyone tells us to do this, that or the other, but I'm a great believer in going with your instincts as individual responses are so varied.

A bit about what's happening at our school now.

The feedback on the home learning is very positive. We had a governors' meeting by conference call last Thursday evening and some parents who are governors reported on the success of the home learning. We fully understand, however, that it will not always go smoothly and the novelty factor of the first week may be waning a little. The work is there as a guide, to give you chance to have some sort of routine in these extraordinary times. We've had a range of children in school every day and we are very pleased to be helping those working on the front line in the COVID – 19 response. The children are ranging from 5 years old to 11 years old; they have worked and played together very harmoniously and are coping well with this very different school. We've had two teachers in every day with myself and our Deputy, Chris Chamier Williams, in most days as leadership presence. I have kept myself away from parents for obvious reasons. I realise now how much I enjoy seeing you on the gate and around school; I'm really missing our families.

We will be opening over the Easter holidays for key workers' children who have no alternative childcare as many on the front line are doing extra and punishingly long shifts. We'll be fully closed Good Friday and Easter Monday.

This is sent with my very best wishes to all our families. At the end of each day I reflect that it is one more day closer to us being back together again. Please keep safe and look after yourselves if unwell.

Liz Burton