

20.04.2020

Dear Parents

I very much hope that you and your family are keeping well and on behalf of all of the staff and governors at St. John's School, I send you our very best wishes. I also hope that you enjoyed a good Easter, unusual as it was to be spending it in lockdown!

Speculation about an easing of lockdown abounds but for the time being and for the next three weeks at the very least we continue as we left off at the end of last term. School reopened today for a small number of children. Although we intended to remain open during the Easter break, our numbers dwindled to such a very low level (one pupil) that we closed for two weeks.

Teachers and teaching assistants not in school, continue to work hard behind the scenes providing home learning to all pupils. Thank you for supporting home learning in the run-up to Easter. The vast majority of pupils engaged with tasks enthusiastically, with great commitment and enormous success. Their achievements, with your dedicated support, have impressed us all. Please continue this with renewed vigour and determination.

We are rolling out Google Classroom across the whole school this week. It proved to be such a success in KS2 that we want children and adults in KS1 and EYFS to enjoy the same benefits. It may take a few attempts to feel that you have mastered the system but please persevere with it as it is an excellent platform for home learning activities. Do not hesitate to seek the advice of your class teacher through Google Drive or by using our

Teachers2Parents (Eduspot) texting system if you encounter difficulties and need help.

I will write another newsletter soon and I look forward to celebrating your children's work and learning through photos. Please keep uploading photos so that teachers can monitor the work your children undertake and I can use them to showcase the imaginative and wonderful activities that are taking place. Please notify me by text if you do not want any photos of your children to be featured in future newsletters.

Google Classroom also enables senior staff to monitor learning output across the school and I do ask staff to complete a register of those children who are not active participants in home learning. As I wrote before Easter, we fully acknowledge that the capacity for engaging with home learning will vary across the school according to the wide range of circumstances you all face. That said, it is vital given the number of days of formal schooling which children will be missing, that the children complete as much of the work as is possible. Curriculum coverage and learning progress will inevitably be impeded by school closure; this makes it all the more important that children have a daily routine which you are able to support and enforce to limit the negative impact upon learning and development which will certainly occur despite all of our best efforts to avoid it.

I very much hope that the economic effects of lockdown are not too widespread across our school community although sadly I am sure that some of you are not immune from this. Mrs. Spiteri will be contacting everyone today asking that you advise us

of any changes to your financial circumstances which may make you eligible for free school meals (FSM). Please reply to her by email at your earliest convenience if you have recently qualified for benefits which entitle your child to FSM. Contact her by email at office@stjohnsn11.barnetmail.net All correspondence will remain confidential. Our caterer's ISS offer a weekly 'cook pack' to FSM families. If you are eligible, we will add you to our list.

I wish you all well. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your children's class teachers if we can be of any assistance.

Kind regards

Graham Gunn