

St. Lawrence Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents

I have now had time to meet with every member of staff and formulate a plan of action for the coming weeks. I would first of all like to thank you for your patience and understanding. I am sure that you are all as disappointed as we are that we have come to this stage so soon after the last lock down. With such an unprecedented rise in infection rates and the prediction of further increases, it was inevitable that schools would need to close. The government has been extremely reluctant to close schools, even with growing pressure from the press, the teaching unions and their own science advisors and that more than anything should serve as a warning to us all that the country is at breaking point.

I am extremely fortunate to have a very dedicated team of teachers, teaching assistants, kitchen staff, cleaners and, of course the lovely Louise in the office. They are all committed to facilitating the continued education of your children, whether this be at home or in school. I am sure that you will appreciate that we have a significant number of “Key Worker” families in school. In order to ensure the safety of staff and pupils, we may need to look at limiting the number of children we have in school. Teachers will be contacting the parents of pupils who have requested places to ask that they move to part-time schooling wherever possible. I would also urge parents to bear in mind that the advice from the government is to “stay home”. **I must stress that home is most definitely the safest place for your child at the current time. I therefore request that parents only take up a key worker place if they absolutely have no other alternative.**

Home learning will be set from tomorrow. This should be accessed via the class pages on the school website. Home learning will be identical to the learning that children will complete in class and will consist of a combination of virtual learning, online maths and literacy activities and paper-based work. Teachers will share the teaching in class with pupils at home via Zoom. Daily Zoom sessions will take place at the same time each day, followed by related exercises. There is an expectation that pupils at home will access all Zoom lessons. If your child is not well enough to attend a Zoom lesson, you should notify the class teacher in advance so that the class is not waiting for him or her to join the session. We do also appreciate that there are likely to be times when technology fails – at our end as well as yours! We will just have to try to work around that.

Finally, I would like to ask for your assistance in helping me to keep the staff and pupils safe. I cannot stress enough that schools have closed because scientists are concerned about the spread of coronavirus and the rising numbers. This poses a very real health risk to us all. I therefore ask that you follow government advice and “stay home” whenever possible, only leaving home for an essential purpose. The sooner we get the virus back under control, the sooner our children can return to school.

With my best wishes for your continued good health and well-being.

J. E. Goodwin

Julie Goodwin

Learning **TOGETHER**, *Rooted in* **GOD**. John 15:5

