

Everything we can be, with Christ in our hearts...



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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Date: 5th January 2021

Headteacher: Mr S McNicholas

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well and staying safe. I am sure that you are processing the news from yesterday like we all are here too. The one saving grace is that there is hope; despite how this whole sorry affair has unfolded, the hope that there is an end in sight is a blessing that we should hold onto.

In the meantime, schools up and down the country have been working hard, with little or no notice to ensure that Remote Learning is up and running so that children may continue their school work while the lockdown is in force.

I am sure that you are aware that this period of closure is not an extension to school holidays; **pupils across the country are expected to access the Remote Learning provided by their schools** and to complete the tasks set, handing them back to the teacher for review.

Clearly getting the balance right is important: too much, and the work becomes onerous and difficult to support and to fit into home life. Too little and learning starts to slip.

We are asking teachers to follow up on incomplete tasks or where tasks have not been done at all, or where children are not engaging with lessons at all. You may get a phone call to discuss this, and while we accept that there may be many reasons that work is incomplete, it is imperative that the children retain a healthy, academic structure to their time in lockdown.

The phone call will simply be an opportunity to discuss the challenges you may be facing with home-schooling and an opportunity for us to assist if we can. The last thing we want to do is put pressure on an already stressful situation. A workable compromise can be achieved I am sure.

Your child's teachers will have started sharing lessons and activities today and will continue to support your child in this way while they are learning from home. In addition, it is important that your child attends the twice daily Class Zoom meetings – it is an opportunity to see each other, meet the teachers and to ask questions and really helps to keep us together as a community.

If your child has any questions about the work that is set, or has anything they need to ask the teacher, they can send a message via Google Classroom. Teachers will look at and respond to these messages at set times during the day (11am to 12 noon) only. The priority for teachers in the coming days and weeks is to work hard to ensure that children are regularly accessing and submitting the work. Feedback will be limited to this priority initially.

I know that we have yet again been collectively asked to work extremely hard to maintain continuity for our children, but I know that we will be able to achieve it when we work together.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen McNicholas (Headteacher)