

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



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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Date: 10th January 2021

Headteacher: Mr S McNicholas

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that are all well and keeping safe.

I am compelled to write today to reinforce the message that you should only send your child, or apply for a place, at this time if it **absolutely necessary**.

We are seeing a much higher demand for places, as are schools across the country, than in March, despite the critical circumstances we find ourselves in.

Despite the government guidance only arriving on Wednesday last week, the situation is such that they have been forced to update it on Friday, a day that London was declared a 'major incident'.

The government's guidance now is that, even if you are eligible, **you should look after your child at home if you can** (a partner / alternative childcare).

Even if your child is attending school, I ask you to reconsider the place in light of that advice.

Whether they attend or are at home, the education they are receiving is identical – the same work, the same lessons.

The whole point of school closures is to arrest the transmission of the virus in the community so it is clear that the effectiveness of this is to ensure that numbers attending **are as few as possible**.

This is to support the unmistakable responsibility that we all have at this time: to keep our children safe; to protect you, their wider families and to ensure that our staff are able to work through these difficult times in safety and with confidence.

With some of the highest infection rates in the country in Haringey, it is my sincerest wish that our school community gets through the next month or so without contributing to the national loss we are all feeling.

On our side, we have the surety of the vaccination programme; we have the confidence that our brilliant teachers and teaching assistants will support your children, will be **with** them, in the coming weeks and we have the absolute faith that when the children return, we will quickly get them back to where they should be. As I have said, we have done it before and we will do it again.

We remain committed to supporting our families in their work fighting this terrible virus.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen McNicholas (Headteacher)