



A Letter from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Who could have imagined only a few weeks ago that Coronavirus would have such a devastating impact on our school, our country and the rest of the world? I remember sitting in a governors meeting in early March where many said there was no way that schools would close, neither would there be a lockdown in the UK. Discussions about cancelling SATs, inspections, closing churches and shops seemed impossible.



But here we are ... and I am so impressed by the way we have all coped. I am so proud of our children and the whole school community. Our teachers have become online educators, providing a wide variety of activities for their classes, as well as communicating virtually with children and their families. School staff have worked tirelessly to convert the school into a childcare centre, full of warmth and compassion, to look after the children of key workers and vulnerable families.

Thank you so much to you, our parents and carers, for doing your very best to teach your children at home. Please do not worry about your children falling behind - everyone is in the same boat. Teaching children is not easy and it is incredibly hard if you are having to work from home too. When children are able to return to school, we will start slowly and gradually increase teaching and learning to suit all the children, who will undoubtedly arrive back at very different levels. Some children are very motivated to learn, others are not. Try to get them into a routine, doing a little every day then let them learn through play, cookery, gardening, reading and watching films and educational videos on BBC Bitesize. Don't fall out, be kind and patient - this is a confusing and worrying time for us all.

People in our on-site school team have been providing childcare within an environment that is cleaned constantly throughout the day. They have been out delivering work packs, packed lunches and checking on families who have become vulnerable. They are working closely with colleagues in health and social services to make sure all are as safe as possible. School-based staff will be phoning every family in the next couple of weeks to check that you are well and to ask if there is anything we can do to help. It is really important that you tell us if you are unable to leave home and have no-one to help you with food shopping. Some of our families are expecting babies in the coming months and have not been able to prepare for their new arrivals. We are in contact with various charities and volunteer organisations who would be happy to help. If the adults in your house become ill and are unable to look after their children, please let us know - there are people who can help you.

Our home based staff team have been preparing displays and resources for use in school when we return, putting together information packs for new starters, doing administration, preparing budgets, ordering resources and sending in cakes for our on-site team! We are very grateful for their commitment to school, as they keep themselves isolated.

These are very unusual times and one day, when this is all over, we will remind ourselves how we worked together to help and care for each other. We will remember how brave we were, how strong and compassionate. We will talk of the special things that took place, the games we played, the times we laughed, the tears we cried and how we tried so hard to do our very best to keep calm and carry on. We will remember the hard decisions we had to make and the sacrifices we made.

This strange time will pass and, at some point in the future, our school community will be together again. It is going to be a long, hard journey, but think of how we will celebrate and remember and cherish the time we spent together. Maybe we will never go back to normal, maybe normal was the problem. I really hope we can emerge from this wiser, more environmentally friendly, more community-minded and kinder.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Dally Rigby

Please take care, and stay safe.

Our On-site School



Get well cards were made and delivered to Whiston hospital this week. They are for patients who do not have family able to send cards to them.

Key workers and vulnerable families are welcome to use our childcare provision. We open from 8am until 6pm but children may attend for less time to suit key worker shifts and work patterns.

Archdiocesan Awards

We have been nominated for two awards this year in the categories "Entrepreneur of the Year" and "Spirituality."

Isla is our entrepreneur from Y6. She raised significant sums of money for charity in memory of her Auntie.

Spirituality sessions for staff and children, our Prayer Garden, prayer groups and an excellent Catholic Life Inspection judgement have all led to our spirituality nomination. The ceremony is booked in July, when hopefully it will be able to go ahead.

Y6 High School Transfer

Many high schools have cancelled their Y6 transition days. They have instead asked us to pass on information. We will be sending out packs in the coming weeks to be returned to the relevant school.

Free School Meals

Edenred, the company organising vouchers, have received information about eligible families and supermarket choices. Edenred will email families who qualify, to let them know how families can claim. When we know that vouchers can be accessed, we will stop producing and delivering packed lunches to vulnerable families, as they will be able to purchase their own lunches.

New to Free School Meals?

Anyone who has lost their job during lockdown and moved on to benefits may be entitled to free school meals for children. Please let us know if that is the case. We can send out forms or liaise with someone in the Local Authority who can help you claim.



Our Online School



Well done to everyone attempting the work on our website. It has been lovely to see photos, poems and stories. Do keep sending them in and check out class blogs to see what friends are up to.

New Children September 2020

Thank you to all our new starters who have returned their packs. We are looking forward to welcoming them.

Those new to our school will receive our regular newsletters to keep up-to-date with our school life.

The Rising Reception page on our website will have detailed information relating to our "new" children.



Lots of home baking going on this week!



Superheroes visit Reagan and Mason. Have they visited your street yet?

School Reports

These will be sent out in May. Only Year 6 will receive predicted grades of working towards the expected national standard, working at the expected national standard or working at Greater Depth. This information will be passed on to secondary schools.

Other year groups will receive an extraordinary report commenting on progress up until school closed on 20th March. These reports will include information about behaviour, effort, progress, enthusiasm for school subjects and contribution to school life. Parents wishing to discuss their child's report may do so by emailing school at any time.