



St Joseph's R.C. Primary School
Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool, TS27 4HE
Tel/Fax: 0191 586 4308
Head Teacher: Mrs L Ashton
Chair of Governors: Mr P Francis



Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a strange week for us all at St Joseph's and one filled with many different emotions. Our school community is so very important to us all and we are grateful for the strength of support and care that has already been shown to one another at this difficult time.

At the end of the first week of school closure, I would like to thank all the staff, whatever their role and responsibility, for their commitment to keeping our school open to care for children of Key Workers.

I know that many of the children are anxious about the situation and the uncertainty of when they will be back at school and back to their normal routine. To help with this, we are busy developing a home learning page on our website which will provide further learning opportunities for children to access and engage in. We aim to have this up and running after Easter. We look forward to receiving more examples of work or photos of children taking part in lovely experiences or activities. Thank you for the fabulous ones we have received so far. We hope that by sharing their work, the children are filled with positivity and know that while they are not in school, we are still there for them. Please ask the children to continue with their learning packs, read with them every day, and access the websites which were sent out with the packs until our learning page is ready. Most of all, if possible, enjoy some time together, making memories and learning in a fun way, maybe try some cooking, model building or drawing.

Our intention is to keep school open over the Easter break in order to support those parents who need childcare while they are carrying out essential and critical work for our country and for this we are truly grateful. **However, may I remind you that IF children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The government's advice is very clear that every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.** I would ask that you are considerate to everyone, including staff, and follow this advice-please do not send children to school if they can be looked after at home. Details of the opening times over Easter will be sent out early next week. We are here if you need us!

During a very uncertain and difficult time, you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Please keep checking the website for updates and contact school either by phone or email at stjosephsblackhall@durhamlearning.net if you require any information or have any queries.

As always, I thank you for your continued support.

With kind regards,

L Ashton
Head Teacher

Respect, friendship, excellence, care