



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr S McNicholas

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of an unimaginably odd and challenging week, I just wanted to touch base with you all and to send our continued good wishes as a school community.

It is hard to be effective as a community when we are forced apart in these most unnatural of circumstances, but we find ways., There is always a way.

I have been proud of our teachers who have been working hard setting daily tasks on the school's website for you to create some structure. I have been touched by their personalised messages, which clearly show how they are missing the children that they are so used to caring for every day.

I have been proud of the staff that have stepped up to the challenge set by last week's announcements (has it really only been a week?) – they have kept the school open for the pupils and families that really need us, putting aside their own understandable concerns and fears.

I have been proud of you, our families – you have responded and adapted to this challenge admirably. To have work patterns interrupted is stressful enough, and to look after your children day in, day out, on top of that is nothing short of miraculous. You will, of course, also be processing your own questions and concerns about the situation and how it may affect your loved ones.

I would also like to add that you are no more 'home educators' than we are 'distance teachers'. The work we are setting is an opportunity to provide some structure and activity to the days. Don't let it rule the days and weeks. Please:

- If it's too difficult, don't worry
- If it's too easy, don't worry
- If it takes too long, don't let it – stop
- If it doesn't take long enough – read a bit more
- Don't worry about them 'falling behind' or 'not finishing'

Don't let the work be a source of angst in the house – you are all doing an amazing job and you are doing the best you can, as are we all.

As we move into the weekend (not that it feels like the 'end' of anything, let alone a week!), we start thinking about next week. If you wish to show us how you are getting on at home, sharing any tips for surviving the lockdown or any imaginative ways of filling the time, please get the children to send us a note or a picture or two – we'd love to share some with the SJV family. Stay in touch. Let's keep this community going! Send messages and pictures to: admin@st-johnvianney.haringey.sch.uk

Finally, let us all keep in mind those members of our community that are struggling with this disease and its direct and indirect consequences. Let us all pray for health, happiness and a swift return to normality.

God bless.

Yours sincerely, Stephen McNicholas, Headteacher