



St. Augustine's  
Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Emma Berry



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you are all well and coping with the national lockdown restrictions. Thank you so much for all of your positive comments and emails about our highly interactive remote learning package via Google Classrooms, I am sincerely pleased that your children are engaging beautifully with the lessons. Much of our autumn term, strategic planning was dedicated to our remote learning package, and I wholeheartedly believe that all of our hard work and efforts will pay dividends in terms of our children's education in the long-term. Thank you very much for supporting and encouraging your child to engage with our live, pre-recorded, small group and 1:1 lessons. Together, our children will **not** be the 'lost generation' to COVID-19.

As from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, the DfE (Department for Education) have requested that all primary schools and maintained nurseries encourage their staff to participate in twice weekly LFD (lateral flow device) asymptomatic testing. Therefore, from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January staff will have the option to be tested twice a week. This means that if a member of staff tests positive from their LFD test, class bubbles will close with immediate effect and the staff member will then take a PCR test. The Government has stated that one in every three people are asymptomatic, which means that they have COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms. The LFD tests will help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 because asymptomatic people and others in their bubbles are asked to isolate for a minimum of ten days, unless they develop symptoms themselves then this could be extended. If a person develops symptoms within this ten-day isolation period, then they must be tested as per guidance, via a PCR test and then follow PHE (Public Health England) advice.

Please be rest assured that you will be notified immediately if a staff member tests positive, thus resulting in your child's bubble needing to close and all having to isolate. In this eventuality, and assuming the staff member is well, your child's class teacher and teaching assistant(s) will provide the same remote learning package (via Google Classrooms), but from their home until it is safe to return back to school. If however, your child's class teacher is poorly and unable to teach from home, your child will be set IXL and Oak National Academy links on day 1 and thereafter will be provided with pre-recorded lessons via Google classrooms, following the set timetable from another staff member. Your child's teaching assistant will continue to support interactively with small groups and on a 1:1 basis.

As we are currently running at around 48% full capacity, all staff are working in school and not on a rota. If in the eventuality that a teacher became ill, and if our numbers were lower, we may then have the capacity to introduce a rota system for staff to deliver live lessons. I therefore urge you to think very carefully, as to whether your child's provision is absolutely essential and needs to be in school. Please do not think of school provision as an entitlement, but rather as an essential place of provision for your child while you conduct your critical role within society. If you are working from home, it is much safer for your child to be with you and your employer should be flexible and support the COVID pandemic that we are all living in. It is **vital**ly important that we all play our part to fight against the Coronavirus.

As always, all staff at St. Augustine's will continue to work hard and genuinely do have your child's best interest at heart.

I wish you all well and urge you to keep in touch if your situation changes and you need further support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'EBY', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Emma Berry  
Headteacher