



*Sacred Heart Catholic Primary
School and Nursery*
Windermere Road,
Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2RF
01702 534546
office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk



31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware of the announcements from Gavin Williamson and Boris Johnson yesterday evening, regarding plans for the return to school of primary and secondary pupils next week.

Despite being given no prior knowledge of this communication, no access to the detail it contained and the overall lack of clarity of the messages given, we are relieved that schools have been asked to revert to online learning for the next two weeks.

Since before the beginning of the Christmas break we have been concerned about the rapidly increasing rate of infection in our surrounding area and our ability to keep everyone safe in our school setting.

Despite the measures that we have implemented to keep everyone safe, we have become increasingly concerned about welcoming 400+ children and staff members to school, together with the large number of parents at the beginning and end of each day. Accommodating up to 35 children/adults in a room does not allow for the social distancing restrictions that are currently required out of school and despite continuous messages from the government that children are not at risk, there appears to be significant contrary evidence in our local schools of both children and adults becoming unwell.

We have considered all these factors and with the support of the Local Authority, the Chair of Governors and the Multi-Academy Trust (ACT - Chair Frank McEvoy), we will be starting the term with a blended learning approach. We will not be fully closed as we must stay open for children of critical key workers and vulnerable children. We appreciate that some of you, as critical key workers, will not be able to continue the very important work that you do to protect our community if we are closed and if the government says we must open for these groups, then open we must. **However, if you belong to one of these categories please may I ask you to consider your decision very carefully. If you have the capacity to care for your child/ren at home please, please keep them away from school.**

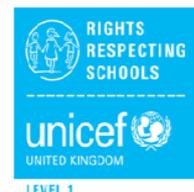
To help us to put plans and arrangements in place, we are asking parents of pupils that fall within **these groups**, and have no other option but to send your child/children to school, to please complete this **[booking form](#)**.



Southend-on-Sea



Silver Quality
Mark 2013/14



Headteacher: Mrs Janet Mullally
Part of the Assisi Catholic Trust Ltd,
Registered address: Kenilworth Gdns, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS0 0BW
Registered in England. Company No-07696989



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Once we know the number of children that we need to accommodate, we will prepare a plan for next week. Please be aware that children at school will be supervised by an adult who may not be their class teacher and will be accessing the same activities as their peers who are at home. We hope to be able to continue to provide extended provision through our Breakfast Club and After-school Club; however, this will be dependent on level of demand from pupils attending.

Testing At this time, I would encourage you to follow advice from Public Health England and arrange a COVID 19 test for your child from a local test centre, if you are a Critical Worker, or parent of a child returning to school on 5th January. This is irrelevant of whether you or your child has symptoms. Please book the test 3 to 4 days before, as the turnaround time for tests is approximately 72 - 96 hours. This testing is not a foolproof method, but will reduce the risk of transmission from asymptomatic positive cases that are within the community occurring in school.

Our fabulous teachers and support staff will endeavour to provide the best remote learning for your child/ren during the next two weeks. Our Infant teachers will post details via their Google Class Site and pupils can submit completed tasks via Tapestry. Our Junior teachers will post details via their Google Class Site and Google Classroom and pupils can submit completed tasks via Google Classroom.

Please be reminded that Monday 4th January is a non-pupil day; therefore, no pupils should attend school on this day.

I apologise for having to contact you on New Years Eve and for the inevitable messages that will follow over the next few days. Please be assured that I will do all that is possible to minimise the disruption to your child's education and, most importantly, to keep everybody in our school community as safe as possible over the coming weeks.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Janet Mullally



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