

An Academy Trust working with
the Diocese of Leeds: 08296540

St John's CE Primary School

Godly Lane
Rishworth
Sowerby Bridge
West Yorkshire
HX6 4QR
Tel: 01422 822596

7th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your extended families are all keeping well and have continued to settle into our new normal routines.

It has been lovely to read the teachers' notes from the phone calls they have had with you – it is good to hear that you are all coping with your particular situation – a special mention must go to the family who have held their own praise assembly – very impressive! Obviously every family has their tricky days and some are in real need, but I suspect that some children will look back and remember this time as comprising of many happy days when they spent valuable time as a family - I hope we manage to take some positives from all of this.

Thankyou also for sharing your photos via twitter – the activities you are undertaking with your children help to motivate other children as well as giving other parents inspiration! Teacher phone calls will continue fortnightly, but should you have particular concerns, and would appreciate a weekly call, please let the relevant class teacher know.

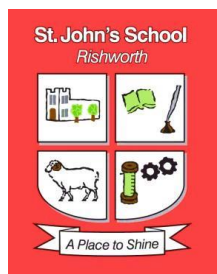
I would like to thank parents for the many positive messages that we have been receiving expressing gratitude for the work we have been doing since we were forced to close, including: the home-learning activities set, the regular communications, the childcare for key workers' children and vulnerable children (including over the school holidays) and the lack of pressure to complete all the home-learning tasks. This positive feedback has been gratefully received by all staff who are doing their best to support St John's families whilst caring for their own families during a challenging situation that none of us envisaged.

A couple of parents have asked whether school would be able to provide some live on-line teaching. The teaching unions have issued strong guidance to their members that they should not be live-streaming lessons from their home for safe-guarding reasons – so following this advice, we will not be providing this type of learning. Teachers will be uploading videos of themselves reading stories/ setting quizzes etc so the children can at least see their faces – keep checking the home-learning tab on the website! I know many parents have set up their own on line sessions so children can chat with their school friends. My only advice is that this should be closely monitored by an adult so that you can be sure that no children behave in an unkind or inappropriate way.



Head teacher:
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As you will be aware, there is lots of speculation in the media about when schools will reopen. If I get any information before the general public, I will of course, communicate this to parents as soon as I can. However, I think it is likely that the entire nation will hear the information at the same time as happened with the closure notification. When the government do make an announcement, I would ask parents to refrain from contacting school for further information to give us time to finalise our reopening strategy. We will contact everyone as soon as we have any definite information.

On a sad note, I know that that some families in the community will be dealing with serious illness and bereavement due to this virus. It would be helpful if you could let us know if this is the case for you so that we can best support your child and indeed the whole family. Please do contact us if there is anything we can do to help; Overgate have also set up a covid-19 support line for Calderdale (01422 378172) which is open 7 days a week from 10am until 6pm. I also attach a couple of useful documents which have a range of trustworthy contacts and support networks for families.

Looking to the future in a positive way - last week we interviewed for a new permanent teacher for September. I am happy to inform you that we appointed Miss Kersley who was a student teacher in class 2 last term and so may be a familiar face to some of you. I know she is very excited to start working at St John's as she enjoyed her time in class 2 so much!

Hopefully we will be together again before very long, but in the meantime take good care of each other and remember that these times will pass.

Yours sincerely

J Wasyliw

(Head teacher)



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