



5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Families,

What a start we have had to the spring term! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas.

We were looking forward to seeing everyone in person, but we will see everyone virtually very soon and then hopefully we will be back as a community soon.

#### Remote learning

We are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that we provide an appropriate and relevant curriculum for all of the children. Understandably, this may take a few days to get right. Class teachers are making contact with all families today or tomorrow to offer advice and support.

In September, all children were sent exercise books home. All work is to be completed in the books, as this will give the children the relevance of the work. Work will be remotely marked by teachers, who will share this method of returning work with you.

Although we do have capacity to loan some laptops out, we do not have enough to loan to every child. Staff are gathering this information and laptops will be allocated as soon as possible. I am aware that the Prime Minister announced that there would be devices for pupils, but unfortunately this does not happen straight away.

#### Critical workers

We have gathered information regarding children who are critical workers. We have had many parents responding to this; we will accommodate as many people as we can, but it is important that where possible, you must keep your children at home.

We must keep the children in school to a minimum so if there is someone at home to look after your children then that is the first option. We do not want to have to ask for evidence, such as a work ID badge, but this may happen if we have a large amount of parents asking for a place on specific days. We may also have to ask for your work patterns to allow us to place the children in a class.

Parents who would like a place in school need to put their request in weekly to [bookingsystem@stmarysjarrow.co.uk](mailto:bookingsystem@stmarysjarrow.co.uk) You will get a response as soon as we deal with the gathered information.

#### Vulnerable pupils

Vulnerable pupils are classified as those children who fit the criteria of having a child protection plan, are a looked-after child, have an education, health care plan, those on the edge of being referred to children's services and identified as a young carer.

We are allocating places to children who meet this criteria and then we will support children who need additional support for a special educational need. We will be in touch with parents if we have additional capacity. We do not have the capacity at the moment.

#### Free School Meals

If you think that you are entitled to free school meals then please email the school office with your name, date of birth and national insurance number. The office will check with the local authority.

Thank you for your supportive messages today. We are trying our very best!

Mrs Tumelty  
Acting Head of School

