



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
Manchester Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 3HS
Telephone 01702 475689
Email: office @ourladyoflourdes.southend.sch.uk



31st December 2020

Dear Parents,

You will be aware of the announcements from Gavin Williamson and Boris Johnson yesterday afternoon, regarding plans for the return to school of primary and secondary pupils next week. Having considered this new information and with the backing of our Trust, our governors and the local authority we will be starting the first fortnight back with a blended learning approach.

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 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 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.** If you belong to one of [these groups](#) and have no other option but to send your child/children to school please complete this [booking form](#).

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 other than their class teacher and will be accessing the same activities as their peers who are at home.

Our hardworking teachers and support staff will endeavour to provide the best remote learning for your child/ren during the next two weeks. Our early years and key stage 1 teachers will post details via Class Dojo and all other children will access resources via their Google Classroom.

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



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
Manchester Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 3HS
Telephone 01702 475689
Email: office @ourladyoflourdes.southend.sch.uk



I apologise for having to contact you on New Year's 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

Sally Nutman
Headteacher

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