



SS Philip and James' Church of England
VA Primary School
With love we flourish

Thursday 21st January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, I want to apologise for the last minute communication last Thursday and Friday. We have now reviewed the information we had around staffing, the numbers of pupils in school (which has fallen since we contacted families individually), alongside the feedback we had received from staff and parents. I hope this letter clarifies our position at this time.

As a leadership team, we have needed to have detailed discussions and make some difficult decisions around the role school is taking at this time. However, underpinning all decisions we have made is the desire to ensure our approach and our provision is as consistent as possible for the pupils who are at home and for those who must attend school, because they are vulnerable or because they have a parent who is a critical worker.

Whether your child is at home or in school at this time, your child's class teacher remains responsible for their education. This responsibility includes ensuring that all pupils in their class (at home or at school) have access to the same learning experiences during the school day, including:

- daily live sessions
- daily pre-recorded lessons
- differentiated tasks
- access to live PSHE sessions and assemblies

We are now at the maximum number of pupils that we can have in school therefore we have made the decision at this time not to change how we deploy staff. We have worked with teachers to ensure they are providing the same experiences for the children whether they are in school or at home, as far as we possibly can.

The children in school are being supported by teaching assistants, cover supervisors and higher level teaching assistants (HLTA's) and the children at home are being supported by parents and carers; and it remains our aim to ensure that all the children have the same access to their class teacher as stated above. Our Remote Learning Policy is being applied to all our pupils, not just those who are working at home.

We also recognise that if your child is attending school at this time, they are able to benefit from continued routine, face to face support from staff who care for them, as well as time playing and learning with friends in their bubble. The children at home do not have this and we do not underestimate how challenging the removal of those routines and social interactions is for them.

Stability at this point is incredibly important for all our pupils and we want to do all we can to maintain some form of routine. We realise the likelihood of your child being impacted by staff absence is a lot higher at this time, but we are doing all we can as detailed in our risk assessment to ensure that our staff stay safe and well at school. Our staff working at home and at school, like our pupils, are of course part of the community so deployment may need to change at short notice however we are doing all we can to minimise disruption.

If you have a child with special educational needs who is attending school or is at home, your child's teacher is working to ensure tasks are accessible and your child is supported as much as is reasonably possible in the current circumstances. Miss Patterson (SEN Lead) has been working with your child's teacher to review



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provision and to plan for interventions to take place where possible. Next week Miss Patterson will be emailing all parents of pupils on our SEN register to invite you, to review provision, if needed.

Our remote provision is constantly reviewed and we know there will be areas for development going forward, but we are committed to addressing them where we can. I do thank you for the constructive feedback we have received, this along with our ongoing review with teachers and support staff continues to help us to improve remote education for all our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Awuye
Headteacher