

ST MATTHEW'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Alnwick Grove, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear NE32 5YT
Tel: (0191) 489 8355 Fax: (0191) 422 6395
Email: office@stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk
Website: www.stmatthewsrc.org



Headteacher **Martin G Humble** B Ed (Hons)

23 June 2020

Dear Parents

We hope you are all well and managing the challenges we are all facing, as families, during this pandemic lockdown.

Google Classroom

Members of staff are working hard to maintain a stream of work to support you during this period of Home Learning. This is the main platform for pupils and parents to stay in touch with their teacher, and, in the vast majority of cases, this is working very well. If there are any issues, please don't hesitate to contact School.

Planning ahead ...

It is only natural to ask about what is to happen in September 2020. The directive from the Diocese is that all schools will be closed for the full summer holiday (seven weeks this year). Schools will not be running catch-up sessions for any pupils over the summer break. We are working on the assumption that we will be open to all pupils (except new Reception Class) on Tuesday, 8 September 2020. This may be subject to change if government restrictions on social distances are still in place in September.

Catch-up programmes

We are well aware that our children will have missed four months of "in-school" education, so, initially, teaching in September will be based around the social and emotional well-being of our children as they settle back into a daily school routine. Teachers will also undertake initial assessments for each child to gauge their individual needs in English and Mathematics. The School will then devise an in-house catch-up programme for all children. This will involve small groups and/or whole classes to be involved in intervention programmes to close the gaps in understanding as soon as possible. The focus will be on English (phonics, reading, writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling) and Mathematics (all concepts) to ensure we close the key knowledge gaps as soon as possible.

Please do not worry about your child's progress at this time – we are committed to ensure that your child will embark on a catch-up programme to bridge the gaps in knowledge which have naturally occurred during this lockdown period.

We fully appreciate your support with Home Learning and the challenges you will have had as a family. Anything you are doing as a family will be a great help in the long run and can only be beneficial. Please try and enjoy and make the most of this extra time with your children. If you have particular concerns about your child(ren)



during this period, please don't hesitate to call School and arrange telephone contact with their teacher.

Buildings work

During the summer break urgent upgrades and maintenance will be undertaken to the school building. The works are to commence in the first week of the school closure and will be completed, in full, prior to opening in September.

Free School Meal Voucher Scheme

All families, currently in receipt of these vouchers, will continue to receive them through the summer holidays.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin G. Humble', written in a cursive style.

Martin G Humble
Headteacher

MH/AT/088