



8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your support in what has been a very challenging week for us all.

I think it is important that we remember why school has had to close to the vast majority of our school population and that is to keep our school and the wider community safe from the COVID virus, which has been spreading at an alarming rate.

School will be open throughout lockdown and we will help you in any way we can, you just need to ask. We have a much larger number of children of critical workers attending school than previously. However we are grateful that many of you have been able to keep your children at home, to protect the NHS and save lives.

I want to say how proud I am of our team in school, who with very little notice have got home-learning and our key worker/vulnerable provision up and running. We are absolutely delighted with the responses we are receiving from parents and pupils via Seesaw.

Yesterday, we received notification that SATs and teacher assessments for Year 2 and Year 6 are cancelled in the summer term, as is the phonics screening.

Accessing the remote learning via Seesaw is all the more important to keep your child's brain ticking over, skills sharp and a structure to the day ready for when they return to school. Staff are responding to Seesaw notifications on a daily basis and I know a lot of staff have already made phone calls to support parents having technical issues.

If your child is attending school for part of the week, the expectation is that your child accesses and completes the home-learning on the days that they are not in school. From next week, children will have access to a new spelling platform. Details will be sent to parents via Seesaw in the coming days.

As always your child's and your mental health are key in all of this so please ask school for support if needed or use the ideas posted on the school website <https://www.stmarys.leics.sch.uk/supporting-your-childs-mental-health/> or <https://www.stmarys.leics.sch.uk/kids-wellbeing-zone/>

Finally, it is vital that even though we are apart again we continue to work together through these tough times to strengthen our sense of community and stay connected to support one another.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Ayres
Head Teacher