



6th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families continue to be safe and well. With the peak of the crisis passing, there is an intense amount of speculation as to how and when the measures in place will be lifted and of specific interest to us, when schools will be back fully operational. Like everyone, we await guidance from the authorities on what this will look like. One thing I am certain of though is that the coming weeks are going to require faith and patience. We will continue to connect with you and support you remotely throughout. If there is anything you need to get in touch about, please continue to call or email the school office and we will try to help as best we can.

Home learning

We are very grateful to you for sharing your examples of home learning, we love to see the pictures and videos of your fantastic work and activities. We are here to offer advice and support for home learning and we appreciate everyone's circumstance is different. May I take this opportunity to again highlight the [Oak National Academy](#), who provide year-group specific lessons in English, Maths and other topics (plus a workout) every day. [BBC Bitesize](#) has a similar offering. These are both excellent for delivering age-appropriate content and they utilise videos and interactive activities supporting children to access them with increasing independence. If you can, keep practising the key skills of reading, spelling and times tables using our homework apps. One of the most important things to be doing at home is encouraging lots of reading. To support this, [BorrowBox](#) lets you borrow e-books and audiobooks from your local library - see [video](#). Or for younger readers, [Oxford Owl](#). As always, thank you so much for all you are doing to support learning at home.

Online Safety and Parenting Advice

Last week I highlighted this important help and guidance from the Government around keeping your family safe online which I will share again [here](#).

A reminder that Warwickshire County Council and the NSPCC are providing free online courses and advice for parents to understand more about their child and how

to overcome challenges they may be facing at this time please see:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parentguides>, for courses using the access code BEAR or advice can be found on the [NSPCC website here](#).

St Gabriel's VE Day Celebration

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020, we are inviting you to find a creative way at home to mark the occasion, this may be in the form of a poster, an imaginative poem or you could even celebrate with your own tea party at home. There will be a prize on offer for the most creative entries so please scan or take a picture of your chosen way to celebrate and email a copy to the school's [office email](#). The deadline for entries is Monday 11th May at 3pm. Have fun and get creative! A [short programme from the BBC](#) will be available on Friday morning to explain some of the background to this historic event.

St Gabriel's Staff Video

The team have put together a video to let our children know we are thinking of them and are looking forward so much to being together again. [You can see it here!](#)

I appreciate that for many, the length of this lockdown is increasingly difficult. Like you, we await government updates knowing that things will remain different for a little longer and that we will need a capacity for patience. I would encourage all of us to hold on to the hope for the future we can see coming, being kind to ourselves for however we are getting through. As always, thank you for all you are doing to support the children and each other at this time. Stay safe and remember we are here if you need us.

'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.' **1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)**

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor
Headteacher



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