



13th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well as we continue through another week of this challenging time. Please remember that the school office remains open so if there is anything you need to get in touch about, please continue to call or email and we will try to help as best we can.

Government Plans

You will no doubt have seen and heard this week of the government's conditional plans to begin easing lockdown restrictions. Specifically, schools have been asked to begin *planning* for a possible return for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from June 1st at the earliest with other year groups following at a later date. As a school, we are carefully considering what this might mean for our community and are taking advice and guidance from the Department of Education, our Local Authority, and the Diocesan Board of Education. It would be premature of me to speculate now on exactly what this will mean for our children but it is clear that there will be significant changes to 'normal operation' for our classes. More information will be forthcoming as soon as we are able and I am grateful for your patience whilst we carefully plan the way ahead. Please be assured that the health and well-being of our children, staff and wider community are paramount in our considerations.

Home learning

We have been blown away by the many fantastic examples of home learning that continue to be sent in, we love to see them! Thank you for taking advantage of the many opportunities for home learning. Our teachers will continue connecting with you each week to provide work and support and a daily timetable of video lessons for each year group is available at the [Oak National Academy](#), and [BBC Bitesize](#).

Online safety

Two highly recommended resources have been produced to help support families to keep safe online; [Think you know](#) have a great range of support for all ages in handy 15 minute activity packs. [Childnet](#) have produced six video lessons for 6-9 year olds.

St Gabriel's School Song

You will have seen a number of videos circulating designed to raise spirits and bring a sense of community at this time. Looking to the Rainbow is a new song for schools to perform during the lockdown. We can make our own version! If you would like to take part, 1) [please listen to the song here](#), 2) then download the lyrics to learn the song. 3) If you are still feeling brave then download the **backing track with calls**, and 4) record yourself (portrait) on a phone. 5) You can send your recording of the song (video files can be large) to office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org using [WeTransfer](#). Remember this is **a video to be shared**, so only send in your recording if you are happy to **give permission for the video to go on social media**. Thank you and looking forward to hearing the end result!

CSW Virtual School Games Competition

CSW School Games have created a virtual competition for the children to complete at home. Each week there is a different sport focus and this week (11th May – 15th May) the focus is on Athletics. Details of the competition can be found [here](#). The competition is open to all children and there are prizes for individuals and schools! This has been set up to help encourage physical activity at home as well as to inspire children to have a go at new and different sports. You can enter results [here](#). Have fun and good luck!

We greatly appreciate the tremendous support you are continuing to offer both to your children at home and also to us as a school community. Whilst there remains some uncertainty for the coming weeks and months, I am continually grateful for the many ways we are able to stay connected and for the fantastic dedication of the staff team here. I look forward to journeying the next stage together.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor

Headteacher



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