



St Joseph's Catholic Academy
Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Principal- Mrs L Hamilton

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents

Wow! What a week! It's hard to believe that this time last week was New Years Day and we were preparing to begin a new term.

Firstly, I would like to clarify our current position. In accordance with the government guidance:

- Pre School and Nursery class are open for all children whose parents wish to send them for their normal hours (Pre School 8.45 – 11.45 or 12.15 – 3.15 and Nursery 8.45 – 3.00pm)
- Children identified as vulnerable are encouraged to attend school every day
- Children who have critical worker parents may attend school on the days their parent is working if there is no other parent able to care for them. This is to keep numbers in school as low as possible to help keep children, families and staff safe. We are no longer able to accept requests for critical worker places unless your circumstances have changed or there is an exceptional circumstance
- Children who are unable to attend school will be taught by their class teacher on Teams each day and are expected to complete the work set and return it to the teacher for checking

Secondly, I would like to say an enormous well done to each and every member of our school community. To our critical worker families, thank you for the invaluable work that you do. The children attending school have adjusted very quickly to their new normal and are working hard and trying their best. To the children and parents learning at home, I have been absolutely blown away by you all this week. I have been delighted to see children and parents learning how to use Teams together, solving problems and finding ways to learn in the best possible way for their family. There have been many teething problems and I am sure that there will be new challenges to solve as the learning progresses but I am so very proud of each and every one of you for getting stuck in and having a go. Parents, please be assured that you are not expected to be teachers. Your job is to facilitate, encourage and guide your children. We understand that you have other commitments to juggle and that your situation is very difficult.

I have never been prouder of our staff. They have put aside their own difficulties and anxieties to put together a package of blended learning which will enable children to continue to progress at extremely short notice. Thank you for your patience as we have made and revised plans and discovered what works best.



I am sure that many of you have worries and difficulties at the moment. We all have different situations and are not all in the same boat but we are all in the same storm and we will continue to do all that we can to support you. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of staff if you have any questions, need help or advice or simply need someone to talk to.

Your child's teacher will provide details of their learning each day and week. Wherever your child is learning, it is so important that they do their very best in each lesson and complete work set to a high standard. We will meet together in Key Stage groups twice each week for assembly; at the beginning of the week to reflect on the Gospel and at the end of the week to celebrate our successes. Instead of our usual awards, there will be WOW awards for the children at home and at school. If you are accessing assembly from home, you will receive joining details and certificates will be emailed to you.

Congratulations to those children who received awards at the end of last term:

	Nursery	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
WOW award	Eva Hamilton	Roya Mahmood	Anaya Butt	Frankie Lesti Johnson	Ryan Osborne	Hallie Jones	Julia Prokopiuk Jack Steele	Olivia Robinson
Virtues award	Georgie Malkin	Lucas Barnett	Grace Gilbert-Edwards	Callan Jones	Jayden Ingram	Lily Nounga-Vanderpuye	Lewis Steele	T-Jay Minshull
Presentation award	Sofia Gromova	Leon Owen	Zak Gregory	Rosie Maughan	Theodora Peter	Bella Nixon	Imogen Bailey	Millie Johnson

Finally, a huge thank you to Mr Colclough and Mr Hiller for their hard work clearing snow and gritting to make our site safe at the beginning of the week.

Please ensure that you are following the latest restrictions both in and out of school to keep yourselves and others safe. I wish you a restful weekend and look forward to seeing and hearing the children in school and on Teams next week.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Hamilton
Principal