

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all made the most of our snow day yesterday. It is never an easy decision to close the school, however, the safety of our staff and children is paramount.

I would like to say a heartfelt well done to our community – our children, our staff, and you, our parents. You are surviving a pandemic and whatever your personal circumstances, you are all doing an amazing job! Our children are safe, loved and cared for and that is the most important thing at the moment. We set daily work on Google Classroom and you are doing an amazing job at home supporting your children and juggling your own work commitments. We may be 'closed' to many of our children, but we are still here for all our families. If you need support or someone to talk to, we are here! Please do not forget to access the 'private message' function on Google Classroom to contact your child's class teacher directly.



"This storm is making me tired," said the boy
"Storms get tired too," said the horse, "so hold on."

There have been some discussions in the media recently about when we will be able to open to all our children and apparently, we will be given two weeks' notice to reopen fully. We have received no indication of this; I find out at the same time as you! With three weeks left until half term, a return to school after half term does look unlikely with infection rates still very high. We will continue to use our remote learning platform until we are advised to plan for a wider reopening. **Please note that school will be closed to all pupils during half term – week beginning Monday 15th February.**

As mentioned in my previous update, we received delivery of our lateral flow test (LFT) kits last week. Staff testing will take place on Monday and Thursday evenings. We aim to start our testing programme this Thursday evening. All staff and our cleaners, sports coach and kitchen team have been offered the opportunity to take a LFT at home twice a week. The testing aims to reduce transmission of COVID-19 by early identification of asymptomatic carriers of the virus. Testing is not compulsory, and it will not replace any of our robust protective measures that are already in place. Should a member of staff receive a positive test result from a LFT they, along with their close contacts, will need to self-isolate following Government guidelines. The member of staff will then need to arrange a test through the local testing sites for confirmation. This will mean that we may need to close any classes affected within the school and children will need to isolate following government guidelines at short notice.

Can I please remind our critical worker families that if you are at home due to a scheduled day off, you MUST keep your child/children at home with you. Also, even if you are a critical worker, your child/children should be kept at home if there is another adult at home to care for them. You should only bring your child into school when there is no other possible alternative. We



Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him
At St Margaret Clitherow School we are committed to Safeguarding Children

need to work together to reduce the number of children that we have in school each day. Please continue to notify the school if your critical worker child will not be in school.

Please be reminded that school has access to laptops and iPads that we can lend to families if necessary. If your home situation has changed and you need financial support, please contact the school as we may be able to help you. We can also apply for internet access support for families via Government schemes or through support from companies such as Tesco Mobile and other broadband suppliers.

Do not forget to keep in contact with the school and email in photos of the children doing their activities so we can tweet and share them with the rest of the school community.

Please stay safe and continue to keep the school community in your prayers.

Yours sincerely



Miss Puccio
Headteacher

