



**The Interim Academy Board (IAB)
Information for parents/carers
May 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and managing as best you can in these very strange and difficult times.

The IAB has been paused since our last meeting in early March so that school leaders can focus on ensuring that St Catherine's school remains open for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. I keep in regular contact with Mrs Terrey to talk through safeguarding, health and safety issues relating to the school premises and to check on everyone's wellbeing. We also discuss the school's approach to remote teaching and the challenges parents face supporting children in their education at home. The website continues to develop and is being updated by classroom teachers with activities to help keep your children engaged in their learning at home. Many of you have been keeping in touch with your classroom teachers by email and responding to their phone calls. Please do keep this interaction going if you can (we appreciate it isn't always easy) as it is so encouraging for staff to hear pupil's news as well as any constructive feedback regarding your experience of remote learning.

Mrs Terrey has been very grateful for the support from her team during this period of uncertainty; they have been working together to ensure that the school is in good order and making preparations for when all pupils eventually return to school. The plan is for contractors to work over half term to repair damage caused by winter flooding this involves replacing ceilings, carpets, notice boards and painting.

At the beginning of the week you heard from the Government that some pupils *may* be allowed to return to primary schools on 1st June. Mrs Terrey is currently working through DFE guidance and will communicate plans to parents in due course. A link to DFE parent guidance is published on the school website.

I am pleased to report that Fr Keith Mitchell has joined the IAB and two more parishioners have expressed an interest in being Foundation Governors when the school reverts to having a Local Governing Board (LGB). We will be in touch regarding parent representation on the LGB in the Autumn Term.

On behalf of the IAB I would like to thank Mrs Terrey for her calm, pragmatic approach in dealing with this crisis. I know she is delighted to be Head Teacher for St Catherine's and has exciting plans for the school; however, these will have to be put on hold for now. I would also like to thank our staff as at times like this it really makes you appreciate the essential role everyone has in a school community. Keeping a school open and safe for both young pupils and adults, truly is a team effort and I thank all for their commitment to this.

With best wishes for your future good health and safety,

Teresa Sturtivant

Chair of IAB