

1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

To begin my letter to you I would like to congratulate you for the amazing work you have been doing in supporting your child whilst they have been experiencing distance learning. I know from all my staff that 'Seesaw' has been a huge success! They have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the work produced by the children and communicating with them regarding their work. At such difficult times, when we are all isolating in some way, human interaction between a child and teacher is so important and I know that the teachers have appreciated it as much as the children.

I would like to acknowledge and say a huge thank you to all those parents who have taken the time to write and thank us for our work. I know myself that when things are difficult it is easy to pick out the problems and like all humans, we in the education sector, thrive on positive feedback. So many of you have taken the time to email your thanks to us and it has lifted our spirits, at such a challenging time. I would also like to acknowledge those parents who have sent cakes and sweets for the staff that are supporting our Key Worker children. It has kept us all going but more importantly, shown us how much we are appreciated and supported by you. I did not expect anything less and it certainly shows that true St Joseph's community spirit.

Of course, at these challenging times, there are some who take the opportunity to make life difficult for others and we at St Joseph's have been attacked by such a group, as we have been Crypto hacked. It has left us having to react quickly, by shutting off our servers for four days. This halted all access to work folders and information that was needed. All staff have had to have their laptops rebuilt and I know that it may have impacted in the interaction that some staff had with the children at the beginning of the week. For this I apologise and can assure you that all issues have been resolved.

In my previous letter to you, I highlighted a book that discussed the current situation and answered questions about the Coronavirus. I attach the link here again:  
[https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus\\_ABookForChildren.pdf](https://nosycrowcoronavirus.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Coronavirus_ABookForChildren.pdf)  
It is free to download and may help when explaining the unprecedented time that we find ourselves in. With so much uncertainty regarding this virus, it's important that we support and take care of our family's mental health. There are steps that you can take to acknowledge the fears that your children may have:

- Listen to your child and acknowledge their fears
- Provide clear information to your child about the situation
- Be aware of your own reactions regarding Covid 19
- Connect with others – keep relationships going with family and friends
- Create a new routine – keep structure to their day
- Limit exposure to the media – be honest but reassure!

[MindEd](#) is a free online educational resource on children and young people's mental health for all adults, which can support parents and carers through these exceptional circumstances.

As we all become impatient and drive to bring normality into our lives, we can forget why we are staying at home. Please continue to look after yourselves and your families by staying indoors. We

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are looking forward to schools reopening for our children, but only when we know that it is safe to do so. Until then, please continue the great work that you are doing.

We would normally have our May bank holiday on this forthcoming Monday, but this has been moved to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, as we celebrate VE Day (Victory in Europe Day)! Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Germany's surrender, we will remember all those who fought in the historic battle of World War II. It highlights the battle that we are fighting today and how we acknowledge all those heroes who are fighting this battle – our NHS. Please take the time on Friday to remember all these people.

As always, the start of the week will begin with our school assembly on Monday morning. This will be available on the website, in the pupils' tab, in the Assemblies folder at 9am. Please click on the link, 4<sup>th</sup> May, to join this.

My final message is one of great news. I am so pleased to announce that Mrs Fallon is expecting. On behalf of the school community, we would like to wish Mr and Mrs Fallon best wishes at this exciting time!

Have a good week and keep safe!  
With God's blessing,

Mrs C Lovegrove  
**Headteacher**



Chairman of the Board of Governors  
Mr Barry Moloney  
Northampton Diocesan Schools Commission  
Buckinghamshire County Council Education Department  
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