



# Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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*Headteacher:* Mr. R. Curry

*Deputy Headteacher:* Mr. D. Abrahams

14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are well and that you are managing to navigate your way through this latest lockdown - whatever your personal circumstances may be. I know that it is a challenge, whether you are working from home, home schooling or trying to strike a balance between the two. Our primary aim at the school is to support each and every one of you as best we can so that everyone has access to a high quality education throughout this unusual period of prolonged school closure.

We therefore thought it might be useful to share the time and considerations that have gone into our evolving home learning offer, as there have been one or two emails asking why we do not just teach in real time using Google Meet or Zoom, rather than an offer that encompasses live, recorded and independent elements. Our vision as a school and community is one with high quality teaching in the context of a stimulating environment where learning is both enjoyable and challenging. Our school, and our home learning offer, aims to provide a nurturing environment that encourages every one of our children to thrive, with the aim of achieving real equity and equality of opportunity for ALL.

With this in mind, when we offer learning online we have to acknowledge that not all our families have equal access to devices, or even to unlimited broadband; some share one device between several siblings and indeed parents. Within our school community, some of our parents are working from within or outside the home during school hours; some are running the day to our timetable and some are having to run to a timetable where they are fitting school and learning activities around work. We know that many families are doing this for more than one child and some with siblings at different schools. We are aware that at any given time members of our school community are negotiating life through different challenges brought about by the pandemic and for all of us there are daily struggles and compromise. Our staff are also looking after some of our children in school whilst simultaneously preparing resources, explanations and holistic support for our children at home, as well as trying to respond to messages or queries that are being sent in to support their learning.

So, to offset all of this, we have put in place an offer that amalgamates live, recorded and independent elements. This includes at least one daily live meeting wrapped around recorded lessons with independent follow up tasks. The meetings keep children engaged, motivated and in contact with their peers, whilst also affording a forum for discussing their learning, their feelings and reading their class book. The recorded sessions have the benefits of being accessed at any time, paused if necessary and rewound to review modelled instruction as many times as necessary;

parents can decide to access lessons at any point in the day if they wish or need to support learning. The wellbeing of every member of our school community is at the heart of our offer.

We hope that sharing all of these considerations with you helps to provide reassurance that we are thinking carefully about the best options for every child and family within our school community.

We are incredibly grateful to you all for your continued support and your sublime efforts in supporting your children's learning. If you do experience any difficulties, please do get in touch, either via Google Classroom or via the school office, and we will do our very best to help you.

Please keep safe.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Curry', written over the printed name.

Richard Curry