

## St Joseph's RC Primary School

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[www.stjosephsrc.com](http://www.stjosephsrc.com)

Headteacher: Mr Gareth Rein

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

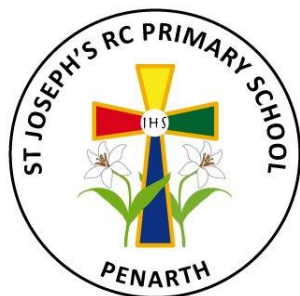
I hope you and your families are well. This is a very difficult period for many people throughout the world and we are all adjusting to the new conditions in which we find ourselves. I hope that your sons and daughters are adapting to the necessary restrictions that have been placed on their lives and that they are remaining positive and healthy. Please know that they and you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Over the past two weeks, our staff members have been modifying their working patterns and procedures and our teachers are trying their very best to provide some continuity of provision for the children in their classes. I hope that you have welcomed their efforts and that your son or daughter has been able to access the videos and learning activities shared in the hwb folders. We have received lots of very positive feedback and know that many parents have welcomed the amount of support and guidance that teachers have provided. This is an entirely new way of working for our school and whilst we are satisfied with what has been put in place thus far, I am sure that there will have been some things that we have not got quite right yet. We are also sure that some parents will think that we have provided too much work for you or your child to keep up with.

Today is the last day of the spring term and over the next two weeks our teachers will not be providing any work for your child. For those children who have watched all of the videos providing instruction and have completed each activity, this is a time for rest and relaxation. We know that there are a variety of reasons that some children have not been able to keep up with the Learning at Home activities and that this may be because of parents' working patterns, a shared use of IT equipment at home or just because your family is taking the time to adjust to a new reality. For those who have not been able to complete the activities each day, this could be a time to take a look at what is there and to have a go. Please be aware that whilst we hope that all children will engage with what we have provided in the hwb folders, there is no obligation to do so at this stage.

The procedures that we have put in place initially are a temporary form of distance learning and, early in the summer term, the school hopes to move to a new stage in our Learning at Home plan. We hope to be able to plan ways in which we can respond to children's learning rather than simply continuing to provide videos and activities. Whilst we know how to do this very well in a school environment, we do not yet know how best to do this remotely. This is likely to involve some sort of electronic 'low stakes' assessment so that we can gauge where the children are and plan what should be done next. The Welsh Government and regional consortia are working on providing guidance documents for schools and we will welcome their advice in these matters.

The Vale of Glamorgan childcare hub provision for key workers have been in operation since Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April and so far our hub is working very well. We are based at Ysgol Y Deri and we are



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working closely with Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth. Parents who are key workers and require emergency childcare can book a place for their child by visiting the VoG School Hub page: <https://bit.ly/2JDz1HI>

As you are aware, today was to be my last day with the children and families of St Joseph's and this afternoon I should have been sharing in the celebration of Mass with the school community. My last official day as Headteacher of St Joseph's School is on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, and I will continue to support the school throughout the Easter holidays. I will write to you again before this date and will provide a message for our children.

Mrs Taylor will be taking over as Acting Headteacher from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April and I do not know anyone who is more capable of leading and managing the school. St Joseph's School is extremely fortunate to have someone with Mrs Taylor's knowledge, skills and virtues at the helm and I am sure that you as parents are grateful to have someone that you know and trust as Headteacher at this time of international crisis.

I wish all of you good health and well-being. In Domino confido.

Yours sincerely,

*Gareth Rein*

Gareth Rein

Headteacher