



# St Mary's Catholic School

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*where everyone can succeed*



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21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well.

We are coming to the end of the first week of our updated remote teaching and learning plan. It seems to be going really well and we have received much positive feedback from students and parents. Thank you so much for sharing this feedback, we really appreciate it. Our teachers have been working very hard to continue to embed high-quality remote learning, including regular live learning opportunities, and therefore it is fantastic to hear that things are going well. Students are engaging superbly with the new approach and it is really helping our students to keep motivated with their studies. As with anything involving IT, there may be a few teething problems at first but I am sure that these will be ironed out over the coming days.

Please thank your children for their hard work and commitment to their studies and for embracing the changes so well. If your son/daughter cannot attend live learning at any point because they are unwell or for another genuine reason, we would appreciate if you could let the school know by telephone or email as normal. Please also continue to use the form on the school website, in the remote learning tab, if your child experiences any issues at all with remote learning and a member of our team will get back to you as soon as possible. Whilst school is, of course, closed to the vast majority of students, we do have a group of critical workers' children and vulnerable children attending school. They continue to complete the same online lessons as children at home, including any live learning.

After much planning and preparation, our COVID-19 testing programme began in school last week. It is going really well and the students in school have shown great maturity in adapting to this new routine. You may have seen on the news yesterday that the government, following advice from Public Health England, have directed schools to pause the daily contact testing element of the testing programme in schools, which was in place as an alternative to self-isolation for those who came into contact with positive cases in schools. However, the government still want schools to continue to test their staff regularly and also to test students twice upon their return to school. Therefore, we will continue with these aspects. Furthermore, when a date is confirmed for all students to return to school, we will be able to build on our current system to increase our testing capacity to carry out testing for all of our 1450 students on their return to school.

We will continue to update parents and carers regularly as we move through the term.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Patterson  
Headteacher