



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

DREAM • BELIEVE • LEARN • ACHIEVE

Principal: Lisa Belfield
Executive Principal: Jill Pilling

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Thursday 22nd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to express our sincere thanks for all of the support that you have shown school over the last half term. It has been a new adventure for all of us and we couldn't have put our new safety measures in place successfully if it hadn't have been for all of you.

We appreciate that staggered entry and exit times are not ideal, but you have taken the changes in your stride and adapted fantastically. Thank you so much for adhering to our one way system; we hope you don't mind 'getting your steps in' too much each day!! We are very thankful to those of you who are wearing a face covering when you drop off or pick up at school; we are asking you to do this to help minimise risks for YOU and the staff. If you have not been wearing a face covering at these times, please could you do so, unless you are exempt, as we really do want to keep all of you safe around school.

What can I say about our wonderful St James children this half term?!?! It has been a true delight to welcome them all back and they have settled in remarkably well under the national circumstances. Their behavior around school has continued to be very strong, and school still feels incredibly calm and purposeful when you walk around it. We have really missed coming together as a school family in the hall for worship and other events, but we have kept our church distinctiveness going through 'zoom' assemblies and living and breathing our Christian values as we always do.

We all felt it as a school family when one of our classes had to self-isolate. We feel we have been incredibly fortunate that we have only needed to send one bubble home, and thank you so much to those parents who showed great understanding and kindness towards us at that time. In the event that we do have to send any other bubbles home, we will endeavor to inform parents as soon as we are aware of a positive case. We now have our SeeSaw online learning platform up and running in school, so we will make sure we continue to set home learning through this. Alternatively, parents would be able to collect a paper based work pack from the school office. The expectation is that parents will support their child at home with school work and complete online or paper activities set by the teacher during a bubble closure. If your household needs to self-isolate (not through a bubble closure), you will also be able to request paper based work packs for your child.

As we move into the next half term, I am confident that whatever we are faced with we will all rise to the challenge and carry on with true St James spirit. I really am truly humbled with the support you have shown us and I hope you appreciate that the staff team here are doing their very best in difficult circumstances. As always, please do not hesitate to contact school if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, the school office or a senior leader.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus over the half term, then you must email the school office to let us know as there may be a need for other families and staff to begin a period of self-isolation.

Take care and stay safe over the half term break. We will see you again on Monday 2nd November.
Your sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Principal