



St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

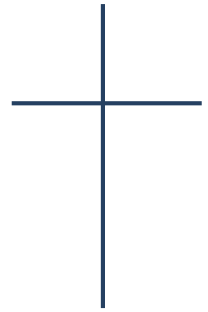
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Friday 29 January 2020

A Thank you...

Dear Parents and carers,

We approach the end of week 4 of lockdown 3.0... 'closed' but 'open' still, with the consideration of schools 're-opening' from 8 March. I would generally love that to be the case for all... so I will wait. We have been told that we will receive two weeks' notice which is better than receiving notice the night before. However, when we do get the go ahead, be it a partial opening of year groups or all year groups back in, we will be ready to kick start the curriculum in the classroom and the wider school again.

That date, is some five weeks away. That still means we have five weeks (and hopefully no more) to manage our homes, our families, our health and our work commitments amidst the demands of home learning whilst the we are still fighting against a pandemic of worldwide proportions. The 'stresses' and 'strains' of lockdown life are testing us all... "irrational daily behaviours resulting in meltdowns are not infrequent" and that's me speaking as a Dad!

I am aware some of you may still be working, some of you may be furloughed, some may be working restricted hours or some may even have lost employment. You will all be dealing with your own burdens and worries as a result.

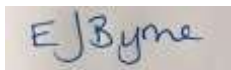
Knowing this, my thanks to you may not seem enough, but it is even more remarkable then, the response we are having from your children engaging in the remote learning provision each day is simply excellent. Be it engaging in everything provided and offered or just accessing some of the activities, thank you. Whatever support you are giving your children is really valued by all of us here. I don't want you to be anxious over any work being set and not completed. Don't get me wrong, I'm sure we all want our children to complete everything we set but we must remember - we need to look after ourselves too. Please do not worry. If all of the work is not completed every day, that's ok. It's also



ok to go for walks in the afternoon and get outside when you can. We want to support but not add to the strain.

Because the remote provision using live and recorded lessons is new to all of us we are feeling our way through, ironing out the difficulties and problems experienced. I hope it is providing some positive support for your children at home (and you!)

There is no doubt this lockdown feels different to the previous summer lockdown. That community feel that existed last time round may not be as easily evident. But please be kind to yourselves, take time to recharge where you can but please be assured of the value we place on you supporting your children at home in these incredible times.
Thank you.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Byrne".

Ed Byrne
Headteacher and 'stressed out Dad'.

