



St Mary's and St John's CE School

"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

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Wisdom Service Hope

Principal: Martin Serrão BA, MEd (Camb)

30th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The current pandemic continues to be a time of great uncertainty. We remain concerned for those we love, our SMSJ family and our wider school community. Our faith reassures us that God is always with us, no matter what we are experiencing.

We thought it would be helpful for you to have an understanding of the latest developments in advance of our end of term newsletter.

We began the last autumn half term with a marked reduction in the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus, despite increases elsewhere. However, we have recently experienced a spike in positive cases which has led to selected students in Years 4, 10, 11 and 13 together with a number of staff having to isolate. Fortunately, the procedures we have adopted has mitigated any impact and we remain able to teach effectively, delivering live lessons where appropriate.

Our innovative use of technology will continue to support learning for our students as we are conscious that distance learning can be problematic and that not all students or home settings are the same. We are adapting and working on using the software available so that larger groups of students can still collaborate with their teacher and their peers using 'class notebook'. We welcome any feedback from you and your child as to how to improve further, please email office@smsj.london with the subject heading 'Distance Learning'.

With three weeks of the Autumn Term to go we are hopeful for as little further disruption as possible. Our social distancing measures will continue and we are making use of disinfectant 'fogging' machines on all three sites to reduce infection.

Once again, we ask that you keep your child at home if they are displaying any of the Covid symptoms and if they or any of the household are awaiting test results. Please continue to supply your child with a separate face mask (just for use in school) and hand sanitiser and encourage them to follow the coronavirus guidance at all times to safeguard the school community.

Ref: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

We are very pleased to inform you of our intention to open the school fully to all students in the spring term. Unless there is a change in the advice from the government, we anticipate that all secondary year groups will return to full time learning in school from Tuesday 5th January 2021. Our end of term letter will contain further details.

You may also like to know that the school underwent a Local Authority Review last week. The findings from our Barnet Schools Improvement Partner were extremely positive. The report will be shared through our website following a process of accuracy checking.

Finally, in response to requests from parents/carers to consider how Christmas cards can be given out in primary under the present conditions, we have purchased a Post Box which will be installed outside the Reception at our Neale House Campus. All cards should be posted between the 8th and 11th December 2020. The cards will be quarantined prior to being issued. We will have a similar arrangement at the Year 5 & 6 entrance to Bennett House.

I hope the coming weeks are productive and that you all remain safe and well as we prepare for the Christmas celebrations with our families.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Serrão
Principal