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| ***Learning to Live, Living to Learn*** | **St John’s Primary School.**  **Teindland Close,**  **Newcastle upon Tyne,**  **NE4 8HE.**  **Telephone : 0191 – 273 5293** Fax : 0191 – 273 0651 **e. mail – tracey.caffrey@stjohns.newcastle.sch.uk**  **Headteacher : Tracey Caffrey** |

15th May 2020

Dear parents,

Thank you for your patience this week.

As you know, the government made an announcement last Sunday about their hopes for schools to reopen from June 1st (June 8th for us due to half term). Throughout this week, I have been taking advice from our governors, Local Authority and teaching and support staff unions to try to work out how we can do this in a safe way.

Right now, I still don’t have all the answers that I need to be able to put definite plans in place to bring more children back to school. New guidance is issued every day, so it is right that we take our time and consider everything fully before taking a decision on what happens next half term. I will only do what I think is right for our children, staff and wider school community. People’s safety and wellbeing is my number one priority.

I held an online meeting with staff yesterday and we are all desperate to get back in to school properly; to teach children face to face instead of online, play with them and to hear laughter and noise in the building.

It will take time to get there.

If your child comes back to school in June, it will look very different to normal. Social distancing measures will be in place. We know that children will not be taught in full classes, so might not be taught by their own teacher. There might be changes to the start and end times of the school day. Parents will probably not be allowed on the school site.

Home learning will continue for lots of our children. Please try to establish a routine with your children so that they are engaging with schoolwork for at least an hour or two every day. If you have the technology to get them online to use Seesaw, Bugclub, Times Tables Rockstars, Lexia and Reading Plus (or Tapestry in Nursery) then please do – regularly. Teachers are running video calls and lessons now – if you have the technology to get your child on the calls, do because they are brilliant and will help them to keep in touch with their friends and teachers every day.

If technology is an issue for you, please let me know. We have been able to provide tablets to families who need them, though we do only have a limited budget. If we can help, we will. Paper packs of work will continue for those who need them.

School remains open to key workers’ children and those classed as vulnerable.

Bear with us and trust us that when we ask you to send the children back to school, we have done everything we can to make it as safe as possible. The government will encourage parents and carers to send their children back to school but have reassured us that they will not issue any fines if you choose to keep them at home.

I will continue to provide updates over the next few weeks so do please check the website regularly. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at the address above.

Take care



Mrs T Caffrey