



## Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School



15<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you for all your lovely contributions to our children's VE Day party compilation – it was great to see all the fantastic activities the children enjoyed, while learning about an important part of our country's history. I am sure that they will remember the celebrations in the years to come and I hope they will enjoy seeing all their friends on the clip [here](#) we are sending out today.

The whole staff would like to thank you for all your support and encouragement at this very challenging time. The many supportive messages, cards and gifts we have received from parents have made a very big difference to staff morale. We are truly blessed with our wonderful community and I am confident we will come through this time by continuing to work together.

Thank you for all that you are doing to support your children's home learning – we know it is not easy, but we hear from the phone calls with the children what a great job you are doing. Teachers have recorded a message for their classes which will come out on Monday, to try to maintain the motivation during the final week of this half-term! We all miss the children and are looking forward to seeing them again soon. As ever, please continue above all to support your children's mental and physical health at home and don't allow the academic work to become stressful for you and your family. Just do what you can and don't worry about anything else.

Speaking with heads from around Surrey this week, it is interesting to hear that regardless of the plethora of different ways of delivering "home learning", a number of children of all ages in all schools are really struggling to engage with remote education, regardless of streamed lessons, videos, powerpoints, paper-based methods etc etc – the feedback is the same in all schools. It has been a long time for the children to be away from the school setting, away from their friends, away from face-to-face learning with a teacher in their own classroom with all the resources they have in school. We have rightly had a national focus on our physical health, but that came at the expense of mental health for some adults and children, so with the infection rate falling nationally, it is now time to redress the balance.

As you will have heard in the media, there is a lot of focus on schools reopening. At Cardinal Newman, we are keen and ready to reopen as soon as we are allowed to and our focus in recent weeks has been on getting our children back into school safely, while ensuring the safety of our staff and all of our community. The government guidance is still coming out and will continue to do so in the coming days, so please forgive me for not sharing the plan for Cardinal Newman pupils in detail

at present – I really appreciate your patience and will be in touch to let you know final details as soon as we have them.

This coming week, the phone calls will focus on a questionnaire about the transition to reopening. I am sending the questions out today so that you have chance to think about them before the call and share any information you think is relevant for your family. There will be one call per family, so the teacher of your eldest child will call, but please share with them any information about any of your children and they will pass it on. If there is a sensitive or confidential matter to share, feel free to ask for a call back from a member of staff you feel comfortable with if you would rather not share with the teacher. No-one will be offended by this and everyone will understand.

There will be many common questions about the reopening. Attached you can find a FAQ sheet to try to address some of these and also a crib sheet for how you might start to prepare your child and family for a possible return to school. There will be many questions specific to your own family or situation and we will be very happy to answer these as a school, but I would be grateful if you could wait until after the final details have been sent out in the middle of next week, so that we can give you the most up-to-date information available. If you have a shielding letter in your household and know for certain that your child will not be returning to school for the duration of the Summer Term, it would be helpful to send a copy to the school office - this would assist us with our planning.

I wish you and your families a very happy weekend. Thank you again for all your unstinting support.

Catherine Burnham