

Our Lady & St. Thomas R.C. Primary School

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Dear Parents,

It has not been the first few weeks back to school that we were all anticipating or hoping for! Yet here we are in Lockdown 3, with a move to remote learning and what an adjustment that has been!

I write to extend my thanks and gratitude to all the teachers and staff at school, every person in school from classrooms, kitchens and in the office are working extremely hard to support the children. Teachers have worked with minimum notice and technical constraints to place online all the wonderful information and resources they have. The live meetings and Google Classroom forum make such a difference to the children, who can leave messages and communicate with their teachers and class every day.

In addition, our teachers are also on a rota to come into school to support critical workers' children and those who are vulnerable and are being supported admirably by our amazing teaching assistants who are on site daily supporting the learning and development.

Our teachers are working many hours a day to try and give the children the best possible experience and learning. For those at home supporting our children with their learning, I am sure you can recognise the skills, patience and incredible attitude that our teachers demonstrate every day.

All staff in school continue to put themselves at risk of COVID transmission, so I am urging you all again to really consider your eligibility under the "critical worker" definition. I know if you are working from home it is difficult to support your child, but I do ask you to be sure you need these places.

For you as parents, a big thank you to you all – you are doing a great job – but remember don't try and do the impossible, especially if you are holding down a job as well. Adjust your expectations and do what you can – it is all valuable. You are loving the children in your care and are supporting them under the most difficult of circumstances.

Look after yourselves and don't get too stressed by remote learning, it's up to you how best to support your child, some days will be better than others.

The school will continue to build on the provision as we go along and listen to feedback for improvements. Finally, these are exceptionally difficult times, and we are all doing our bit the get through this the best we can.

I wish you all good health and welcome any communication via the office address – office@olstlearning.net

Yours sincerely,

Alison Aisbitt, Chair of Governors.

