



St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

Headteacher:

Mrs L Prestidge

Tel: 01634 371892

Email: office@staugustine.medway.sch.uk

Deanwood Drive
Rainham
Gillingham
Kent
ME8 9NP

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy week; our number of Key Worker/Vulnerable children and children in Year R is steadily rising. As I stated in previous letters, we are following Government guidelines for implementing protective measures and as a small school, we have a limited number of rooms and space within those rooms for children to be spaced out as much as possible. This is why we are currently, within the existing guidance unable to offer groups over 10; I am of course aware that the Government suggested half classes of no more than 15 but given the size of our rooms and our school layout; 15 would not be possible with the current protective measures in place. Of course, we will keep this under review and inform you if we are able to extend the offer.

The guidance states: It is still important to reduce contact between children and staff as far as possible, and settings can take steps to achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, and staff where possible, mix in a small group and keep that small group away from other people and groups. For primary schools, classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher (and, if needed, a teaching assistant). If there are any shortages of teachers, then teaching assistants can be allocated to lead a group, working under the direction of a teacher.

As you know, schools have been advised to focus first on continuing to provide places for priority groups Key worker/Vulnerable children and then in order of age to follow: Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6. Given our number of potential Key workers/Vulnerable children and Year R eligible to return we do not have the capacity to extend this offer to Year 1 and Year 6 at the moment; whilst maintaining the same protective measures in school as outlined in the Government guidance. As I stated earlier and in previous letters, we will of course keep this under review and let you know if this changes.

We provide weekly learning opportunities for each year group on our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). As part of this Home Learning Provision, teachers have included phonics sessions, Maths and Literacy learning, spellings, Mathletics, Timetables Rock stars, Phonics Play, Oak National Academy video lessons, BBC Bitesize lessons and various fun activities. All parents/carers have a direct email to their child's teacher and can contact them asking for support with learning throughout the week. As we follow Government guidance with regards to 'the wider opening of schools', many of our staff are now in school.

The wellbeing of our children and staff is always important and particularly now during this difficult time; we have shared a number of resources via Parentmails and on the 'Home Learning' and 'Wellbeing' pencil available on our website. Mrs Liggins our SENDCO is available by email if you would like further support or would like to discuss an appointment with the school nurse.



I would again like to say thank you to all of the staff, children and families for your continued support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Prestidge
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

