



# St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

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## ***We Grow and Learn with Jesus***

1st February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's now been a month since we were instructed to close the school.

The staff desperately miss all the children and long for some sort of normality to return. We feel there is now light at the end of the tunnel with the roll out of the vaccines to the most vulnerable groups in our community.

The Prime Minister has given us a date for the earliest reopening of schools as the 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is dependent on data showing an improvement in critical areas. We will keep our fingers crossed for this date. Information about reopening of schools has not yet been given to us from the Government or County. As soon as we hear of any such plans we will share them with you.

Schools have been told to shut for all children, including those of critical workers and vulnerable children, during half term. St Anthony's also has a planned INSET day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February for essential staff training. Therefore, no remote learning will be posted on that day as all staff are attending the training, albeit, remotely.

I know I speak for all the staff when I say a huge thank you for the efforts you have made to ensure your child engages with the work set via Microsoft Teams. The children have tried so hard to follow the work set and we are immensely proud of them all. It has not been easy at all. Many of our staff are also working parents and they completely understand the frustrations and worries you may have been experiencing. If some days go better than others, don't fret. Just do what you can, no more is expected. Please be assured that as soon as school reopens we will do all we can to ensure your child 'catches up' on any missed learning, especially in the core subject areas. We are blessed to have experienced, dedicated staff who I know will do everything in their power to 'fill the gaps'. It is very fitting that tomorrow we celebrate Candlemas - The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. We remember Jesus is the Light of the World.

We will be lighting candles in school and praying for the families of St Anthony's School. Join us in prayer by lighting a candle at home with your child:

'Jesus, you are the light of the world.

May we live our lives as you taught,

so that your light will shine through us in

all we say and do'.

Amen

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On behalf of the whole school community I would like to take this opportunity to pass on our love and sympathy to the Cunha Family who have recently suffered a bereavement. I know they have been part of the prayers of all who know them, in particular, our Y5 Lisbon and Nursery families. As a school, we have asked Fr Joseph to offer up a mass for the intention of Manuel Cunha. This mass will take place at Holy Rood Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 11am. If you would like to be present for this mass please book using the events section on the Holy Rood website.

Thank you for your continued support.

God bless and take care,

Elaine Harrold  
Acting Headteacher