



# Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy

Head Teacher: Mr B. Janes BSc Hons, NPQH  
Executive Head Teacher: Mrs G. Booth BA Hons, M.Ed.



Our Ref: JC/MP

28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well, and that you are managing to cope as best you can in these challenging circumstances. It is hard to believe that we have only been closed 3 school weeks. I hope that the Easter break was restful and restorative.

At present, schools will not be returning to 'normal working' in the immediate future, and we are planning for what the next phase of distance learning will look like. Areas that are very different in the current circumstances is that of **feedback and support** and we are looking at how we can continue to support you and your children as effectively as possible.

The Department for Education have indicated in several publications, teachers are not expected to 'teach' pupils as schools are currently closed. Initially, our immediate focus is safeguarding vulnerable pupils and those pupils in school. We have then ensured that all subjects have put in place processes and resources to support children's learning at home.

However, we are aware pupils may have different work patterns and home circumstances; home learning is not achievable at the same pace or in as much depth as learning that takes place in school. We want our pupils to engage in online learning without feeling overwhelmed or anxious because of situations beyond their control. Therefore, work being set aims to revisit existing knowledge and consolidate learning at a pace that supports pupils whilst they manage other aspects of our current social situation.

As pupils complete work, using online platforms such as Google Classroom or OneNote, staff can instantly see this and provide feedback. Where work is completed on other package such, as Word or PowerPoint, this can be emailed to staff using the Academy email system. We aim to feedback on work submitted as soon as possible. Where appropriate, staff will provide individual feedback to pupils via email or notes to their work on Google Classroom or OneNote. Feedback may also take the form of adjustments to work set to reinforce areas identified within teaching groups.

Where pupils need **additional support and guidance**, they can email teachers directly. Teachers will respond as quickly as they can and Heads of Department are available, should a teacher be unable to respond. The DfE have also indicated, 'There is no expectation that teachers should live stream or provide pre-recorded videos' of teaching. The reason for this is distance learning for an average class size of 25+ cannot emulate what happens in the school classroom during lessons. We cannot have the same interactions in terms of instant verbal feedback and teacher support as we ordinary would. Additionally, we feel that platforms such as 'Zoom' would not be suitable for teachers to use with pupils as they are not robust enough to ensue all users are fully safeguarded.



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We would please ask that you are mindful that staff will have demands and pressures of their own, such as childcare, and so it may not be possible for them to work a 'usual' school day and respond instantly, but they will respond as soon as they are able.

As you will also be aware, we continually update our school website with material to support learning from home – not just in the academic sense. We have also included material for Wellbeing and Mindfulness, Worship and Prayer, Learning Enrichment, and Staying safe online. Much of this material is suitable for the whole family, and we encourage you to explore these sections.

The key to home learning is establishing habits in learning, rather than focusing on how much content is learnt. Learning new tasks, themes, and concepts without the support of a teacher is challenging and we will take this into account in our curriculum planning when we return to school. Nationally, our professional representatives are already engaged in discussions with The DfE around how education will adapt to the needs of our pupils and their progression when we are able to return.

We understand how frustrating this is for you and your child(ren). We will continue to share new information as it is released, and the actions being taken to support all our pupils.

May we take this opportunity to thank both you, and your child(ren), for the way you have responded so supportively to this situation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malcali Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Mr. M. Patrick  
**Deputy Headteacher**