



St Clement & St James CE Primary School

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear parents and carers of children in St Clement & St James and St Thomas'

Headlines:

- **Both schools will be open to key worker and vulnerable children from the 2nd June (we are closed for staff training on the 1st)**
- **The 8th of June is the earliest possible date for the schools to open further to Y1 pupils**

The last few days have been a very challenging period in which we have spent many hours trying to establish what welcoming more children back to both our schools can look like in the light of many different pieces of government guidance and advice from many other sources – the Local Authority, the Diocese, trade unions as well as professional opinions in the media.

We have also been in close liaison with other local schools in the borough. With our governing body, we have explored in depth several different models with some key factors always at the forefront of our planning which include:

- The safety and well-being of children
- The challenges for working parents
- The need to provide a high quality experience for those in school to enable us to support children in keeping their learning on track
- The need to continue home learning provision for children still not able to be in school.
- The need to implement new regimes in school in relation to cleanliness and hygiene
- The limitations of our school buildings in providing adequate space for everyone
- The challenges presented by the absence of several staff who are currently required to self-shield for their own protection
- The need for a sustainable model that does not become impossible to continue or extend with low level but new staff absence.

Details are still not completely clear, however we have taken the decision to delay opening the school to more children until the 8th June at the earliest. We still have a great deal of work to do compiling risk assessments, planning protective bubbles, training staff to ensure the school is as safe as possible and rearranging tables and equipment. We are sorry if this causes any inconvenience to families who were keen to return to school sooner.

We have also been working on projects such as lending iPads to some families with little IT access. We have been working on our online google classroom which we hope to roll out to each class after half term. The google classroom will allow learning to be more interactive and give children the opportunity to respond directly to their teacher. We have also developed our book lending services at St Clement and intend to roll out a book pack loan scheme at St Thomas'.

We hope this gives you an insight into what the two schools are considering and some of the rationale behind it. It is an ever-changing landscape, so as advice changes we will be in touch. It should also be remembered that schools will only open up at all if the government's conditions are met. We are constantly reviewing data and guidance and therefore all plans need to be flexible and are subject to change.

Thank you for continuing to support your children with their learning at home. We all know the difficulties of juggling work commitments and family life. Please remember that we are still here for you if you need any further guidance or reassurance.

Thank you for your time, patience and support

Sarah Bouette and all the staff
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs Dowthwaite at St Clement - ellie.dowthwaite@stfed.rbkc.sch.uk

Miss Bouette at St Thomas' - sarah.bouette@stfed.rbkc.sch.uk

Or call the school offices in the morning from 9-12am

St Clement contact: info-scsj@stfed.rbkc.sch.uk.

St Thomas' contact: info-st@stfed.rbkc.sch.uk

Online learning: www.scsj.rbkc.sch.uk/classes/ or <https://www.st.rbkc.sch.uk/class-pages/>