

Monday April 20th 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are all well and that you have been able to have some pleasure from the sunny weather we have been having over Easter.

I would like to be writing to you to tell you the situation has changed since my last letter but unfortunately I cannot. I know you will have seen and read lots of speculation in the Sunday newspapers about schools reopening again soon but the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, has made it very clear that schools will only open when it is safe to do so. I know that schools opening again is the key to people returning to work and the sign that restrictions are being lifted but he stated that the following tests need to be met before this is possible:

- First, we must protect the NHS's ability to cope and be sure that it can continue to provide critical care and specialist treatment right across the whole of the UK.
- Second, we need to see the daily death rates from coronavirus coming down.
- Third, we need to have reliable data that shows the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels.
- Fourth, we need to be confident that testing capacity and PPE are being managed, with supply able to meet not just today's demand, but future demand.
- And, fifth, and perhaps most crucially, we need to be confident any changes we do make will not risk a second peak of infections.

In the meantime the Government is producing advice and guidance on a daily basis to try to help parents who are affected by school closures. On the 'School Closure' page of the website there is advice for you which is updated daily so please click on it for new and helpful updates.

There are also new online learning resources available that you may have heard about from the BBC in particular. The staff are looking at them and will update the class pages over the next day or two with their advice on what the children need to do.

If you have any worries or queries then please email the school at info@st-bedes.s-tyneside.sch.uk and we will call to speak to you and help you.

Message to the Children

Dear Children,

I know what is happening must be very hard for you all and that you will be wishing you could get back to school again with your friends and teachers. The teachers and I wish we could get back to school too and we are missing you all a lot. This is a very strange situation which has never happened before to any of us so we all find it very difficult sometimes. I know I can trust you

to follow the rules that the government has given us. If you do, you will be helping to get the country back to normal again and then we can we all go back to school. The teachers are updating your class pages today and tomorrow so please go to them and read what they are asking you to do. Remember they can tell who has been doing their work that they have set for you and they really want you to do some work every school day.

You are all in our thoughts, pupils and parents alike. Please take care of yourselves while we hope and pray for better days ahead.

Best wishes,

N. Park

Headteacher