



Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School
An Academy in the Good Shepherd Trust*
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"A caring, supportive community, grounded in a Christian ethos, where children are inspired to explore their potential and develop skills for life."

Head Teacher: Jo Davies

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Families,

Here we are at the end of another week of remote learning. I do understand the pressures that this is bringing upon you and appreciate all you are doing to support the children in their learning. We are aware that there may be days when the children or you are struggling with the work that has been set and it is not possible for it to be completed. On days like these, please just let your children's class teacher know on Teams and they will be able to help. It may be that the foundation subjects are not completed that day and that is fine. We are very aware of the need for you to look after your own wellbeing and that of your children.

I'm sure that many of you will have been following the news this week and have picked up on the statement regarding school closures, but for those of you who may not have seen it, we wanted to make sure everyone was as up to date as possible.

It has been rare, since the start of the pandemic, that schools have been provided with much clarity or advance notice, but we are pleased that we now have at least some certainty about what will be happening in the coming weeks (although we are, of course, disappointed that we won't have everyone back in school for a little while yet). The key announcements are as follows:

- The **earliest** schools might 'begin to re-open' will be **Monday 8th March**, which is the start of the third school week after the half-term holiday;
- There will be a plan/review set out on **Monday 22nd February** (the first day after the half-term holiday), with further updates;
- When the decision to return has been made, schools will get two weeks' notice of this.

Sadly, this means that we have at least four more school weeks of remote learning under the current arrangements. I know that this will be bitterly disappointing for many families and the children, but I hope that it provides some hope that there might be an end in sight, at least in terms of getting the children back into school.

We also received a clarification from the Department for Education (DfE) that schools would not be asked to open over half-term for children of critical workers as was the case in the first lock-down. I thought I would share this with you in case anyone had been wondering. We also have an INSET day on **Monday the 22nd February** so school will not be open for the children of Critical workers until **Tuesday 23rd February** and remote learning and online work will begin again on **Tuesday 23rd February**.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and restful weekend.

Kind regards

Mrs Curtin