To All Parents / Carers

Tuesday, 5th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Since I last wrote to you the situation nationally has worsened and we are regrettably in the position of being closed to most pupils until February half term. Cases in Harrow remain perilously high and we urge families to **stay at home** and follow the national guidelines strictly. I attended a briefing yesterday with Public Health officials in Harrow and currently it is believed that 1 in 100 people in Harrow have active coronavirus infection and 1 in 3 are likely not to display symptoms. This disease if affecting people of all ages, the number of infections is rising and the new variant is present in the Harrow community. It is therefore vital that we take every step to protect ourselves, our families and the wider community.

St Jérôme School will remain open for the children of critical workers who cannot safely keep their children at home due to their work commitments in the national response to the pandemic. We have further increased the measures that we are taking on site to reduce the likelihood on transmission of the virus and we are pleased to be able to offer this critical service in support of the national effort.

The majority of the school will commence remote education tomorrow in line with national guidance. Teachers will provide further information about how to access this today and each year group has a dedicated email address should any issues or challenges arise. It is important that all pupils engage as fully as possible with the learning activities and webinars and that you inform us of any specific barriers to participation. We have planned the timings of webinars carefully to ensure that pupils who need to share a device may be able to participate. Whilst we have scheduled specific times for each class in each year group to reduce the number present in any webinar, if for any reason it is easier to join at the time of the other class in the year group this can be done so that children do not miss out. We hope that the remote learning will provide the flexibility for parents to manage what we understand is a very challenging situation. You must simply encourage your children to do as much as possible and be in touch if we can offer any specific support. Please note that the school has not yet received any devices from the national scheme but will inform families that are eligible as soon as these become available. If you have a working device that you do not need or would be able to donate one for a family that needs it, please contact the school office. If your child has additional educational needs and is not attending the school provision Mrs Cox will be in touch and if you have any specific queries or issues please contact the school.

Families who receive Free School Meals based on financial circumstances will receive further information about the support we can offer you. If you feel that you are entitled to this support or your circumstances change please contact the school office. Likewise, if you experience any specific challenges or hardship please be in touch with you and we will be able to direct you to organisations and charities that may be able to support.

The school administration team are working mostly at home but can still be contacted via the school office email [office@stjeromebilingual.org](mailto:office@stjeromebilingual.org) or for urgent matters by telephone to the school phone number on 020 3019 6363. We will send all communication by email so please do make sure that we have your up-to-date email address and let us know if any of your telephone numbers or emergency contacts change.

During this challenging and anxious time, we would like to offer all members of the school community the opportunity to come together and to pray. Each Monday at 5pm, commencing on **Monday 11th January** we will offer a short time of prayer and reflection via Zoom that will be led by clergy and volunteers. Everyone is welcome to take part and if you would like to pray for a person, place or situation specifically you are welcome to request this by email to [office@stjeromebilingual.org](mailto:office@stjeromebilingual.org) or share it as part of the meeting. The meeting joining details are as follows:

St. Jérôme Community Prayer and Reflection

https://zoom.us/j/92478836837?pwd=REQvdjRVMFRoQ1Q3QzFLcGFQa1lxQT09

Meeting ID: 924 7883 6837

Passcode: 528035

Thank you for your support and understanding at this challenging time and be assured that each family will receive a specific year group letter detailing home learning later today.

Yours sincerely,

Revd Daniel Norris

Executive Headteacher