

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear all,

Today has been so strange.

I understand and trust that closing the schools for the majority of our pupils is the right thing to do but it feels so wrong. Talking to the children in assembly I felt heartbroken that I couldn't give a guarantee as to when we will see them again. Saying 'Don't worry, everything will be fine, we will sort it' just didn't seem to cover it. When children and parents are anxious we want to be there for you. We want to support, teach, care and safeguard the children. The staffs' immediate response to the closure announcement were of concern for the children – how will they manage with the disruption, the fear, the unknown?

Please know, even though we are closed, you can email us. If you have any safeguarding concerns you can ring me. We are still here to support, even if from a distance.

Thank you

I know I have a brilliant team at St Joseph's but wow they have been incredible. Putting their own fears for themselves and their own families aside to come in, keep smiling and care for others; offering to do whatever is needed without hesitation. To all the staff – I cannot thank you enough for what you have been doing and continue to do. You are amazing.

To all the NHS staff I see kiss their children goodbye at our doors each morning as they go and risk themselves to help others, you are heroes, thank you.

To all the parents who have sent us lovely messages of positivity and phoned to say thank you, please know when times are difficult your smiles and support make all the difference.

I hold onto the thought this won't last forever. In time, normality will be restored. I try to see the silver lining that at least we are being told rivers are clearing, CO2 is reducing due to there being less pollution, people are helping others and coming together in a way we haven't seen before.

Whilst we may not forget this awful virus quickly, I hope we will remember it more as a time when people's kindness and compassion to one another came to the forefront.

I hope we will come out the other side with the world being a better place for all our children.

Whilst I am heartbroken that I am saying goodbye to our children today, and I can't tell them when we will see them again, I am hopeful for the future.

Wishing you all the very best

Please keep safe, take care and keep your loved ones close

NickyTaylor-Bashford

Headteacher's Awards: FSU – Seb, Oto, Poppy N, Jessi, Evan, Rowan – Shiloh, Cohen, Sycamore – Chloe, Cherry - Queenie

Silver Awards: FSU – Poppy J, Rowan – Barney, Brooke, Beech - Ralph

Bronze Awards: Sycamore – Jacob, Willow - Niamh

Stars of the Term: Oak – Poppy J, Oto, Rowan – Quinlan, Tilly-Rose, Sycamore – Lydia, Finlay, Cherry – Nicholas, Maddy, Willow – Holly, Charlie, Maple – George, Nicole, Beech – Lola N, George H

Breakfast Club Star of the week: Mrs Taylor-Bashford