

LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY ACADEMY



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Dear Parents

I hope you are all keeping well. It has been wonderful to see more of you at school this week – a lovely reminder of how things should be!

This term is proving to be challenging in so many ways. I think many families and children are finding it increasingly difficult to juggle the demands of home learning with working from home. Parents are being asked to return to work, rather than working from home; others are coming out of furlough. Everyone's situation is different – but no less challenging. Many children are now missing the routine and structure of their school day, their friends and their teachers. In some cases, this is exacerbated if they know their friends are in school, either as a result of having a parent who is a key worker (and as we discovered in March, the category is very broad!) or having a particular need that is best supported in school (usually these pupils were supported by members of the SEND team prior to the wider school closure).

I would love to have all of the children back in school. Honestly, if I could have every child back here, I would. I would have them all back in a heartbeat, no questions asked. But sadly, I cannot. The Government advice is very clear - I have to prioritise the pupils to whom I can offer a place in school in order to ensure the safety and well being of those children and staff in school.

We do have a comparatively high number of pupils falling into the Key Worker and Priority Pupil groups. This means, by necessity, that I cannot accommodate as many other pupils safely – hence Year 6 not returning until the final week of term. It also means that I am unable to invite additional pupils back into school, even if their siblings or closest friends are here.

I hate this. I am a teacher, and a parent. The thought that any child is struggling or is unhappy upsets me greatly. I am only too aware of how important school is to children, not just academically, but also socially and emotionally. I am hugely frustrated that I cannot meet the needs of every pupil and every family at this time, and genuinely wish that I could do more to help you all. We are incredibly lucky at Leybourne to have such a fantastic staff team who are working incredibly hard to support home learning, respond to emails, check in on children and families and offer emotional support. In addition, Mrs Newington and Mrs Reeves have worked tirelessly to support and encourage many of our pupils who are finding this time especially challenging.

**We promote the learning and development of all children to achieve their full potential
in a caring, happy Christian environment**



If you and / or your children are struggling, please do contact us. We will all we can to support you. Please do not suffer alone. Please appreciate, however, that it is highly unlikely that I will be able to offer your child a place in school at this time, however much I would like to. It simply is not possible. We cannot open another “bubble” group in school – we do not have the staff or the space to support it.

That said, if you are a key worker parent and you have informed us that you are likely to need a place for your child over the next few weeks, please do not worry! We have your child’s place allocated and that is safe. It is purely that we cannot now add any more children to our groups.

I do hope this makes sense! I hope that soon this will all be over, and the time that we only had a third of the children in school becomes a distant memory. Until then, I hope you and your families stay safe, and I thank you for your continued support and understanding, it is very much appreciated by us all.

Kind regards

Tina Holditch