

Hello

My name is Miss White and I am going to be your child's Reception Class Teacher. I wanted to say hello and to welcome you to our St. Gabriel's family.

At this time of year we would normally be welcoming you into our school to meet the Reception Class staff and explore the classroom. Sadly, as this is not a 'normal' year, this cannot happen. We look forward to welcoming you into our school in the new academic year. More details will follow when we know what is to come.

In previous induction meetings I've talked to parents about how they can ensure that their child is 'school ready'. As this meeting cannot take place, useful documents have been added to the Reception Class 2020 page on our school website. These documents will help you to understand what we mean by 'school ready' and will suggest what you can be working on with your child before they come to school. They also highlight the importance of early learning and basic skills in your child's education. Please do take the time to look at these documents as we want your child to have the very best start to their education.

In the meantime, make the most of the quality time that you are spending with your child. This has been a really strange and difficult time for everybody, but please know that everything you are doing is enough. You are your child's first and most important educator and your child will be learning without you even realising. Here are some simple yet extremely beneficial experiences that you can provide for your child.

- ❖ Read with your child, asking them to join in with parts of the story that they remember. Talk about pictures, characters and events that happen. Ask your child questions about what you have read to them. Do you recognise any letters? Are any of those letters in your name?
- ❖ Go outside and explore using your senses. Talk about the changes in season, notice different living things and make comparisons.
- ❖ Provide opportunities for your child to explore making marks and drawing pictures. Get their fingers moving...lots!

- ❖ Encourage your child to help you prepare food, set the table and tidy up. We help children to become more independent.
- ❖ Play board games and other games that require your child to share and develop their social and communication skills.
- ❖ Look at our school website for information on how your child can become 'school ready'.

Your child's first year of their school life at St. Gabriel's will be exciting and fun! I have added some photographs so you can see some of the things that we get up to in Reception Class.

We know that the transition from your child's early years setting to our school may not be exactly what it should have been, but we do know that your child will thrive in our school regardless. We are so very excited to welcome you into our family. Take care and we will see you soon.

Miss White ☺



