



1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

Dear Everyone

I hope you and your loved ones are all keeping safe and well. Yesterday's announcements have taken many people by surprise and will no doubt cause some families anxiety, so I want to reassure you about life in our schools.

The big difference to the last lockdown is that schools remain open for all children and it is our intention that it will be business as usual in all Xavier schools. The Headteachers and staff have done an amazing job since September in keeping schools open, safe and clean. Our schools have been an oasis of calm in these mad times and it's been wonderful to see the children so happy, enjoying their education and being with their friends, albeit in a bubble and with restrictions. We have been very blessed to have had so few cases and I'm sure this is partly due to the stringent measures the staff have taken to minimise the chances of spreading the virus by keeping children and staff in their bubbles and sticking to the rigid hygiene routines.

As the Prime Minister said yesterday, the best place for children to be at the moment is "in School." We must do everything we can to ensure the present situation does not have a long-term effect on their education or on their future. As part of your role in helping us please send your children to school as normal throughout lockdown. Try where possible to retain the daily routines which have been so helpful to your children since September.

It is worth noting that staff will be fully committed to teaching their classes and maintaining our high standards of cleaning and sanitisation. Should you **choose** to keep your children at home we will not be able to provide remote learning. It is not possible for staff, who are already stretched, to teach in school and to design and deliver home learning in addition.

When the new guidance comes out tomorrow there may well be changes in our day to day routines and your Headteachers will let you know if it affects your school.

From talking to our Headteachers I know that your on-going kindness, messages, and words of encouragement have made a huge difference to them and to the staff so again thank you very much for this. We are all trying to do the right thing and knowing we have your support makes our job so much easier.

Please do not struggle at home in silence. If you need help let us know or if you are aware of any other family who is in difficulty, find a way to let us know straight away. Being a Catholic community in times like this means we do whatever it takes to help each other and support those in need.

Thank you again for everything and we look forward to seeing all the children tomorrow

God bless you all and thanks again for your support

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ani Magill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ani Magill  
CEO Xavier Catholic Education Trust