



# The Priory School

## Weekly Briefing

Thursday 7th May

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Dear Parents / Carers,

As I write this on Wednesday evening, there is great uncertainty about what the Government's exit strategy is regarding schools. I understand the Prime Minister is set to address the nation on Sunday.

I have not received any guidance relating to questions we all have around reopening e.g. What social distancing measures are required? Are masks necessary? How will the school support members of staff in high risk groups who are currently self-isolating? How will the school balance the needs of children attending school alongside the provision of home learning and supporting key worker and vulnerable children? I certainly have a long list of questions that will need answering before we can return safely.

The school's leadership team is planning to meet on Monday so we can quickly respond to any announcement and make the necessary preparations. I will write to you all as soon as a clear way forward has been agreed. Jeff Williams, the Director of Education in the Winchester Diocese, has once again made some helpful reflections:

*"Our concern and care for all of our community, their emotional and psychological needs in moving to a different way of being, for however long, will be a priority. Good learning and teaching will be contingent on getting the atmosphere, ethos and support right. We need to acknowledge that many have been deeply affected by CV19, and will continue to be for a long while."*

*So let's be gentle on ourselves; let's have appropriate expectations of ourselves and others; and above all, let's keep our established values and way of being school and family at the heart of our preparations and all that we do."*

### **A new member of the Priory School Family—Olivia Alexandra Miller**

I do have some very happy news to share. Mrs Miller had a beautiful baby girl yesterday and both of them are extremely well. Mrs Miller has named her Olivia Alexandra. Congratulations!

### **Learners of the Week LIVE - VE Day Celebration**

Thank you for all the bunting and Union Jack cupcake pictures! During Learners of the Week Live today we will be remembering the end of WW2.

### **The Priory Post - improvement!**

We have been selecting photos for The Priory Post from the Help Desk email. From next week, teachers will also be sending work to Mr Swain from Google Classroom to make sure we are able to include more children.

### **Teacher / Pupil Phonecalls**

We've had lots of positive feedback from the teacher 'catch-up' phone calls to pupils. The teachers have enjoyed it too. As lockdown looks set to continue for the next few weeks, we are expanding this so each teacher will phone half their class every week on a rolling rotation.

*Mr P Ruffle*