

## The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth Achieving Together for a Brighter Future



The purpose of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives

## Headteacher Shalfleet and Yarmouth: Mrs Elizabeth Grainger BEd English (Hons)

ITT Partner School



Dear Parents and Carers.

4th January 2021

Thank you for your support during this incredibly difficult time, we have been genuinely touched by the messages of care and support for the children and staff. As schools, we have been placed in a very challenging situation, with the Government's expectation that primary schools are open.

We fully appreciate the position of those parents who have chosen not to send their children into school especially with the current infection rates on the Island. Having said this, the official position from the DfE is that schools are open and we have to adhere to their expectations around attendance. We will be recording attendance accordingly to explicit DFE guidelines to reflect an accurate picture.

Therefore, following DfE guidance we are only permitted to provide Home Learning to those children who are having to self-isolate due to being in close contact with someone who has the virus or if they have an extremely clinically vulnerable parent, where we would need a medical letter from a doctor or a consultant.

We are deeply saddened to be in this situation, which is a time of great concern for everyone, and ask that parents are understanding of the position we are in. The situation is changing rapidly and we will update parents as soon as there is any change. Should schools be instructed to close to everyone with the exception of vulnerable or key worker children, we will be sending out a detailed letter regarding our Home Learning arrangements.

Please see the Government Link to the Home Learning expectations here:

https://get-help-with-remote-education.education.gov.uk/statutory-obligations.html

We want to take this opportunity to thank the incredible staff across the Federation for their commitment and dedication to the children, they have been exceptional and have come to work despite feeling intense pressure.

We send you all our very best wishes and our love to the children. We know we will get through this time together, with the love and care which underpins all that we do at the Federation.

With very best wishes,

Elizabeth Grainger Headteacher

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Carla Bradshaw Chair of Governors

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