

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

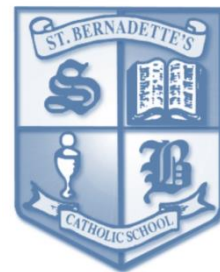
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Newsletter 13
27th March 2020

At St Bernadette's we are fully committed to safeguarding our children. We expect all staff, parents and visitors to share this commitment.

Dear Parent

Can I begin by thanking those of you who have sent messages of thanks in recent days to staff in school. These are very much appreciated and have helped to keep spirits high. St Bernadette's School is blessed to have such a committed team of teaching and support staff, who are always willing to go the extra mile for the children in their care. They have agreed to work over the Easter break to provide care for our most vulnerable children and for those children of key workers. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team of staff.

Childcare for Key Workers

A team of staff are coming into school each day, to provide child care for those parents who are regarded as key workers. Many of our parent's work in the hospital or in care homes and are needed more than ever in their work place. To support them, the school is open from 8.00am to 3.00pm each day for their children and will continue to open throughout the Easter holidays including Good Friday and Easter Monday for those families who need this provision.

School Meals

Our school cooks are also coming into work each day to provide a lunch for the children who are in school and to provide a packed lunch for any child who is entitled to a free school meal. Please remember that all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a daily free school meal and in addition to this, those children in Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are entitled to a free meal can also collect lunch daily from school. Lunches are available for collection from the school office between 11.00am and 12.30 pm each day. Birmingham City Council are looking to introduce a voucher scheme for families who are entitled to a free school meal, which will be able to be used in a number of supermarkets to purchase food items. This is not available yet to schools, but will replace the packed lunch option. It is likely that the voucher will be emailed to those families who are entitled to it, but we will update you when we receive more details. (Please see attached for further details).

Home Learning

Every child was provided with a learning pack before school closed on Friday 20th March. Those families who were self-isolating at this time, were asked to collect their pack from school on the Friday or on Monday 23rd March. Weblinks are also available on the school website. Children should be encouraged to read daily at home and they can access a number of digital books via the following link: <https://readon.myon.co.uk/> children can also quiz on their book.

Some useful resources are:

Access to year band learning packs on Classroom Secrets
<https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/free-home-learning-packs/>

Twinkl have free resources for home learning
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search?term=school+closure>

Year 3 - 6 should have usernames and passwords for Times Tables Rockstars:
<https://ttrockstars.com/>

Spelling Shed
<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb>

Communication

We will endeavor to contact every child by phone every two weeks. Mr Markham-Jones, Mrs Yakoob, Mrs Bhella and Mrs Heeley, together with senior members of staff will be responsible for these calls. We will also send a weekly newsletter to parents to keep you up to date with provision in school. Please be aware that during the Easter holidays, the school office will be closed. However if parents need to contact school in an emergency, they can ring school on the following number **0121-783-7232**

Reflection

I recently read something that I would like to share with you...

"Don't worry about children regressing whilst not in school. Every single child is in the same boat and they will all be ok. When they are back in the classroom, teachers will course correct and meet them where they are. Teachers are experts at this! Don't pick fights with your children because they don't want to do Maths. Don't scream at you children for not following the timetable. Don't mandate two hours of learning if they are resisting it. If I can leave you with one thing, it is this: at the end of all of this, your child's mental health will be more important than their academic skills and how they felt during this time will stay with them long after the memory of what they did during these weeks is long gone".

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

By Cameron Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving
their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult
of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our
arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of
God to our neighbours.

Amen

As the Easter break begins on Monday 5th April, we are aiming to introduce online learning for all children in school from Monday 20th April. From this time, children will be expected to complete a piece of English and a piece of Maths work each day. This should then be submitted online to the relevant teacher. Full details will be shared with parents next week in the newsletter. Please appreciate that staff in school will be providing childcare in the day for those children who continue to attend school', but will also need to set lessons each day for those children who will be learning from home. In essence this is doubling the workload for staff in school. Please give staff your full support and ensure that your child does complete any work set. We will review this provision weekly. All parents are able to email staff, with queries regarding their child's work, at the year band email address set up last week. If your child attends the nursery you should email nursery@stberns.bham.sch.uk If you have a child in the Reception class then please email reception@stberns.bham.sch.uk Teaching staff who cover classes in year 1 can be contacted at year1@stberns.bham.sch.uk and all other year bands, using the same email address but preceded with the applicable year band. Whilst I appreciate that not all households have a device at home, the vast majority of our families do, therefore this seems to be the most efficient method to use. Prior to the Easter break, the teaching staff will receive training which will allow them to create their lessons from home and upload them to the system.

Government Advice

The single and most important action we can take in fighting the corona virus is to stay at home, so we can protect the NHS and save lives. When we reduce the day to day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection. Please remember that you should only leave the house for one of four reasons:

- **Shopping for basic necessities**
- **One form of exercise per day**
- **Any medical reason**
- **Travelling to and from work, but only where this cannot be done from home.**

A MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN

Over the last week or so many of you have had to miss school because of the coronavirus. Your parents have had to keep you at home as part of keeping everyone safe. Unfortunately, we do not know at the moment how long schools will be closed for. We are working hard to provide you and your parents with work to do through your learning packs and by also providing information on the school website.

Eventually, things will improve, and we will all be able to return to school as normal. When you do come back lots of things may have changed. It won't be Spring anymore. You might even come back to find yourselves in the next year group. There might be new staff and new friends to get to know. But for now, you must remember that many things won't change. The staff in school will carry on thinking about you every single day. They will laugh and remember the joy that you have brought them this academic year, and will wonder if you are still getting better at your arithmetic, times tables, handwriting and your reading – Your teachers will want to hear all about the books you have read and enjoyed! Most importantly, we hope that you are trying hard to help your parents at home and doing the very important jobs we have all been given to help stop the spread of the coronavirus **STAYING AT HOME and WASHING YOUR HANDS!**

While you are away from school please keep checking the school website for materials that your teachers will be adding. I hope you enjoy these activities and working with your parents from home. We will keep on loving you even though we won't be able to see you every day for a while.

During this time there are a few things I would like you to remember:

- Don't be frightened. You may hear some things that you are worried about, but these are not worries for you. Tell someone you trust about your worries and let them look after it for you.
- The children who are in school and in the weeks to come, are not more special than you. We are going to be looking after them so that their parents can go to work and do some really important jobs to help others.
- There are some good things happening in amongst the bad things. There is less air and road travel and, as a result, the environment is getting a bit of a rest, and, who knows, maybe we can work out new and better ways of doing things in the future because we have had to.
- People are talking to each other and are offering to help each other more. This is a very good thing; please make sure you do that too. Be kind, helpful and generous in the days ahead and please don't argue with your family.
- Even though you will be missing some school, you can still learn and try your best at everything you do.

You are such special children. Although we won't see each other for a period of time, please keep singing, playing, making, drawing, writing, problem-solving, praying and learning about our amazing world. We are having an adventure and, like all real adventurers, we have to be brave.

May God bless each and every one of you and your parents.

Miss A Cowings