



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 20th March 2020

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

Coronavirus

You will know by now, schools will be closing to the vast majority of children from Friday 20th March 2020 until 'further notice'.

The latest advice from the government

'As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with EHCP plans.'

Keyworker and Vulnerable

The list of key workers can be found on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you are, a keyworker and you need to send your child to school so that you can continue your critical role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 please email the school and provide the following details:

- Parent / Carer (Full name)
- Name and year group of child / children
- Job Title and Job Role
- Place of Work - Name, full address and telephone number of workplace
- Name of line manager
- Line manger's email contact

We require this information so that we can contact you in the event that your child becomes ill at school. However if you are a key worker and you have made other provision for your child, you do not have to send your child to school. If you child falls into a vulnerable category you can make the choice to send your child. If you chose to send your child to school, please email the school. School email address: enquiry@stteresa.bham.sch.uk

For those children who are categorised by the government as vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response, the school will open for them on Monday 23rd March at 8:50am and close at 3:20pm. Further information about school opening hours will be confirmed shortly. Please check the school web site.

Information for the day

- No Breakfast Club
- Children to wear school uniform
- Children eligible for free school meals and those children in Key Stage One will receive a school meal.
- If you pay for a dinner, the school kitchen will continue to provide a school meal for your child.
- If your child usually brings a packed lunch from home, please continue to do so.

Education Packs

All children should have education packs to complete at home and reading books. We are planning how we can continue to share learning opportunities with the children. With this, we ask you to continue to look at the school website for further updates - www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk

Children eligible for Free School Meals (not KS1 Universal Free School Meals)

If your child remains at home or is the government category for attending school and is eligible for a free school meal, City Serve has made provision to continue to provide free school meals.

For those children who are eligible for a free school meal but who are not in school, an adult may come to the school between 11:15-11:45am and collect a packed lunch for their child. We will follow the government advice of social distancing and will ask you to come to the front of school to collect the packed lunch.

If your child is eligible for a free school meal but your family is self-isolating you will need to contact the school so that provision can be made.

When the government releases information about vouchers we will let you know via the school website.

Father Hudson

Jenny Ranson from Father Hudson Support will continue to work with parents throughout this time. If you need to speak to her, please contact the school and we can make the necessary arrangements.

Confirmation, Reconciliation and Holy Communion

Children in Years 3,5 and 6 have been preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. The Bishops of England and Wales have postponed the celebration of these Sacraments until further notice.

Celebration of Mass

The Bishops of England and Wales have instructed that at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20 March 2020, until further notice. If you can do so please look on the school web page and we will be able to share any information from Father David.

Top Table

Children are chosen from a year group each week to eat at the Top Table for a range of positive behaviours or work. The children selected to eat at the Top Table today for this week are from Year 4. Well done to Sebastian, Kaiden, Imani, Tiana, Ethan and Samuel who joined Mrs Allport for lunch today.

Y6 Residential Trip

Twenty four children from Year 6, Miss Walk and Mr Corkery are to return from the Outward Bound Centre in Aberdovey this afternoon. From the updates and photographs on the school website it looks as if the group have had an adventurous week. Thank you to the children who have been a credit to the school. Thank you, on behalf of the children and their parents, to the adults who have taken the children on this visit. There have been daily reports posted on the Year 6 class page of the school website showing the adventures the children have had. Please feel free to have a look and to post a comment.

Dates for the Diary

All dates for the diary have been cancelled until further notice.

Thank you

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to all the parents for your cooperation throughout the week, when so many events have unfolded and there has been such uncertainty. There have been so many acts of kindness, which at times has been overwhelming. The children have been brilliant and are such a credit to their parents/carers and our school community. I want to say, "Thank you" to all the staff, for their support and dedication. Please remain safe and keep us all in your prayers. We are a community and we are here for each other.