



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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24th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Coronavirus update – Daily Update

We are continuing to open our doors for our fabulous Key Workers. Following last night's announcement, we are now at a stage where we want to care for the children where one parent is a **Key Worker and has no childcare at home**. If your partner is working from home or has been asked to say at home, then our expectation is that you care for your children at home. Also, please consider the options of sending your children to school if you work shift patterns. We are flexible at school and are operating on looking after different children on different days or even attending half days. Although, I am very conscious of supporting our Key Workers, especially those that work for the NHS, I am also mindful of protecting our staff at this very difficult time. Where possible, I would like the staff at St Bernadette's to work from home or be on a rota basis of working to protect us all. Please remember to keep us updated with any changes in status linked to isolation, illness or your working commitments. You can email the office in the usual way and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

What we'll continue doing while your child is at home

- Some parents have asked me about learning packs being sent home. I appreciate that you will not want your children online each day, working, - I totally agree! I will make sure that each class page has information that you can go to and then work through with your children. If you do not have sufficient resources i.e paper, I will be putting a surplus of exercise books, from tomorrow morning, on a trolley outside the school office for you to take (please take one). You will understand that printing off reams of booklets for children, on a weekly basis, is not appropriate and certainly does not help our environment
- Your child's diary (at the back) has a wealth of information that you can use to support their learning at home. All the Key words to be learnt, across the Keys stages, are listed. Make cards with them and play games to learn to read and spell these words – especially for EYFS/Key Stage 1 children. Important vocabulary and key learning objectives around Maths and English are available here. Read with your children every day and use the bookmark questions, linked to each book banding, to support your discussions around the book
- Year 6 already have a list of learning connected to the Year 6 objectives on their class page and they also have revision booklets
- The staff will be engaging with children on **Purple Mash** and indeed many have already done so, to set tasks and have a dialogue with the children to suggest different ways to learn from home
- **Twinkl** - an online learning platform has offered a free trial for parents that has a wealth of resources – go to www.twinkl.co.uk/offer

Head Teacher: Mrs Alexis Satterthwaite



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- Mrs. Duke is coordinating **Free School meals** to distribute where appropriate

For those children still in school

- Please bring and collect your children from the library entrance, being mindful of guidance on social distancing.

I have been asked to share this information with you from the Diocese. The website link lets you know where you can watch Mass live streamed and share the Catholic Bishops' of England and Wales booklet on celebrating the Liturgy of the Word and Spiritual Communion when public Mass is suspended. <https://www.churchservices.tv>

Updated FAQs for parents

- simple explanation of education closures

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Updated travel advice

- reflecting FCO travel ban, advising against all domestic and overseas trips, and advice for students and staff currently overseas

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-advice-for-educational-settings/coronavirus-travel-guidance-for-educational-settings>

New Q&A re exam cancellation
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

I hope the daily updates are helpful. I will endeavour to send last week's newsletter today but will suspend the newsletter from now on and communicate via our daily updates. Thank you for your continued support.

"Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt to those who are alone and to those who are most stricken."

Pope Francis

Sending prayers to you all

Alexis Satterthwaite

Head Teacher

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