



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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5th May 2020

Dear Parent

May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary

Friday 8th May – Bank Holiday – School Closed.

Friday is the Bank Holiday which has been moved from our traditional first Monday of May. Friday is the 75th anniversary of VE Day. It is good to celebrate in these days so let's hope for a great day. School will be closed for the Bank Holiday and we shall open again on Monday 11th May for our key worker children.

Schools Opening:

There has been much chatter about schools opening and on Sunday, I believe, the Prime Minister is due to set out his plans for the removal of some lockdown impositions including the partial re-opening of primary schools. Once we have the information, our SMT will discuss how we can reasonably move forward in safety and according to the instructions provided by Government. You will be informed as soon as we know more.

Washing Hands! *It is crucial that, as we prepare to return to school in some form, that the children are really well trained in hand washing – 20 seconds with soap, in between fingers etc. If it is the single most important thing to do to protect ourselves (as we have been told), then it is the single most important preparation/training you can provide your child with to help us all stay safe when we return.*



The God who Speaks to us...

'Blessed is she who believed that the promises made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Luke 1:45

Home Learning

We remain immensely proud of the work the children are submitting and the response they have made to their teachers. In the majority of cases, it has been excellent. We do, however, continue to have a small group of children who make very little response and even after regular phone calls from school are not participating. The difficulties these children will face when they return to formal learning is huge. Please ensure that you keep your child's learning ethic as a priority over these next few coming weeks. Thank you.

Thank you also to the staff who have supported learning in and out of school during these past few weeks. We are blessed to have such a wonderful team of staff.

4th week of Eastertide

School 'Report' – Thursday 7th May.

The teachers are all attempting to speak to every child over the next few days about the current work which has been set online. The feedback we have had from parents regarding this contact has been positive to say the least.

In addition to this, the teachers have been busy compiling a report of your child's attainment at the time of closure. Since you missed your consultation with the teacher we thought it would be a welcome piece of information. Given that so much time has been spent away from school, it is unlikely that there will be an end of year report. Please bear in mind, however, that this report ends where we closed and attempts to identify where your child would have been if they had remained in school and working. Since many children have actually worked hard over the closedown, we are hopeful that they will pick up again quickly on return. For those who have chosen not to focus on education, it is a different matter and there will be much catching up to do. The next school year will be a challenging time for all children and teachers. With that in mind, please continue to treasure learning and thank you for all that you are doing to support us and your child.

The report will be sent via the e-schools learning platform to your child's account and will be there by the end of this week.

First Holy Communion 2020

Many of our Y3 children should have been receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist over the next two weekends. Sadly, this privilege and important step in their faith journey will be delayed. Fr John will inform you all in due course how he plans for this sacred moment in the children's lives to be arranged. We continue to pray for the children and hope that the delay will mean they treasure this Gift even more.

Confirmation

The same applies, of course, to our Y6 children and their Sacrament of Confirmation. Fr John will let you know about the details and plans he has in place. Please keep all these children in your prayers.


Parent questionnaire

We are trialling a new way of gathering views of the parents. We consider each and every response we receive. Due to the school's current closure to the majority of pupils, this year's questionnaire is online and can be found by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/StMaryB17>

Please note that to fill in the questionnaire, you will have to leave an email address, which also means that your responses are no longer anonymous. However, since we value all honest feedback, please do not be put off by this.

Stay safe!

Yours sincerely,



H M Cusack
Headteacher