



St. Augustine's  
Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Emma Berry



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Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you enjoyed the Easter period with your children despite the current circumstances. At least the weather has been kind to us and allowed us to go outside into our gardens, or to go for short walks.

It saddens me to start the summer term in such circumstances where the school is only open to critical key workers' children and vulnerable children, as ordinarily all the children would return to school fully refreshed after their Easter break ready to start the summer term with a 'skip, hop and a jump' so-to-speak, but under the circumstances you and I all know that the only way to keep safe is to abide by the Government recommendations and to only leave the house when it is 100% necessary (grocery shopping and exercise.) You also will have no doubt heard the latest Government news that we are to remain in lock down for at least a further 3 weeks. Despite the recent media speculations, I really do not know when our children will return to school, or what 'returning to school' may look like, but as soon as I do receive news I will obviously inform you of this. In the meantime we are to continue as we are, trying our hardest to support one another not just academically, but mentally as well.

I have spoken to some parents over the Easter period and it has been lovely to hear the positive comments about the homeschooling content and how we, at St. Augustine's, have tried our hardest to support you and your children as much as we possibly can during these unprecedented times. Thank you very much for this, it has been very humbling to hear your comments and what makes us St. Augustine's- working together to serve our community with compassion and integrity.

You will have noticed that our 'Homeschooling' tab on our school website has been refreshed with new material to support your children this week. Staff at St. Augustine's are all missing the children and 'normality' very much. To support you further, and in addition to having a direct email to your child's class teacher, your child's class teacher will be calling you this week just to touch base with you all and offer you support and guidance should you need it. It is more than likely that your child's class teacher will call you from a withheld number, so please do not be alarmed. If you are unable to answer the call, they will

leave a message. Our School Office remains open as normal (8.30-3.30pm), and will be answering calls during the normal school day should you wish to speak to a member of staff. We have a minimum amount of staff in school, so it may well be that your child's class teacher is not working in school, but is working from home. Please be rest assured that the staff member will take a message and pass the message onto the relevant staff member, should you not be able to email them directly.

Below, I have included some valuable links to the most recent Department for Education (DfE) advice and information. These will be useful for both you and/or your child(ren).

### **Answering children's questions about the Coronavirus**

The Children's Commissioner for England has produced a useful guide for children and young people. The guide aims to answer children's questions about coronavirus, tell children how to stay safe and protect other people and how to help them make the best of their time at home. Please follow this link to access: [Guide to Coronavirus for children](#)

### **Support and advice for parents and guardians during the Coronavirus**

An online hub providing advice and support for parents and guardians during the coronavirus outbreak is available from the NSPCC. Content includes: information on keeping children safe from abuse; tips and advice to help parents working from home; and ways to talk to a child who is anxious or worried about coronavirus. Available at: [https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/#163961\\_20200414105703](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/#163961_20200414105703)

Please click on the link below for the most recent information about the closure of educational settings:

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



[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers - GOV.UK](#)

Information for parents and carers about the closure of schools and other educational settings following the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 0468 687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm - Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm - Saturday and Sunday

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Finally, I hope that you all continue to stay safe and support one another as we have done so thus far. I will leave you with a little reflection:

### **Reflection**

Life is mostly froth and bubble,  
Two things stand like stone,  
Kindness in another's trouble,  
Courage in your own.

(Adam Lindsey Gordon 1833-1870)

Best wishes and take care,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'EB' with a flourish underneath.

Mrs Emma Berry  
Headteacher