



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Update letter to parents (2) in response to Lockdown. **January 2021**

Dear Parents,

Key Worker provision. The guidance for schools with regard to key worker provision changed earlier this week. **“If you can stay at home you MUST stay at home”** is the new wording. The number of children in school is significantly greater this time around and I urge everyone once more to only use school for key worker provision as a last resort. The more we can restrict our movements and reduce our social contact the quicker we can get school fully open again.

To those families that are using school, thank you for providing evidence of key worker status and thank you for collecting the children promptly at 3:00pm. Our “bubbles” have now been set for the next two weeks and will be reviewed on January 29th, anyone requiring a place will be added to the list after this date. School currently has a number of staff self-isolating and/or dealing with contracting the virus themselves. At the moment we are able to cover individual year groups, if that changes I will contact those concerned.

If your child/children are poorly, please keep them at home and of course if they have any symptoms of Coronavirus please seek a test. The school will do its best to help anyone if it can, and I urge everyone to only consider using school if you have no other option.

Home Learning. Parents have always been and always will be the primary educators of their children. During these most demanding of times when school is only open to key worker children I want to write to everyone to reassure them of the following. The online work is there via Twitter, packs can be collected from school if required, exercise books and pens and pencils likewise. However, I do not want anyone to feel under any pressure to complete all the work that has been set. Engage with what you can, complete what you feel able to and help to the best of your ability. We have set up a significant amount of home learning and I wanted to reassure everyone that doing what you can, when you can is the only expectation any of us should have. Thank you to those families that have managed to send it pictures of the work being done at home, Mrs Logue and I will look every day and reply to each year groups when we can. Please also look out for a congratulatory text (“Marvellous Me”) for trying your best at home. The teacher responsible for our “home learning” provision is Mrs Logue. She can be contacted by phone (464 6355) through the office or via enquiry@stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk



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Free School Meals. For those entitled to Free school meals a packed lunch will be available up to and including Friday 15th January from 11:30am at the school office. From **Monday 18th** the provision of free school meals will revert back to the previously used voucher system. Once again Edenred will administer the vouchers and it is their name you need to look out for in your inbox. The school office will set everything up again at this end, my understanding being that orders can be placed from the 18th onwards. As soon as I can confirm that they are ready to be redeemed school will text everyone to let you know. The period the vouchers are going to cover is a four-week timeframe up to the week ending **Friday February 12th**. As always check your clutter/spam inboxes also and if you have any issues please call school. A note to key worker families entitled to free school meals, a packed lunch will not be available from school after today (Friday) as the vouchers will start to be issued from next week onwards.

Can I once again thank Mrs Coney for all her hard work in getting everything prepared, each time this happens it can be logistically very challenging and time consuming so many thanks to Mrs Coney.

Wellbeing Calls. School will be attempting to make contact with as many families as possible in the coming days and weeks. If, however you have any issues/problems/concerns please contact school and we will do all we can to help. The office will have someone answering calls all day every day, e mails are also checked regularly at enquiry@stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk.

Contact Details. More than ever it is **ESSENTIAL** that school has the correct contact details. I am still being informed that some families are not receiving e mails in particular. As a method of communication whether it be updates, newsletters, vouchers or sharing information an up to date e mail address is essential. If you are not receiving e mails, **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE** and they will help sort out the situation for you. These are extremely challenging times for all of us and the situation is constantly changing sometimes on a daily basis so the need to stay in contact is crucial.

Sacramental Programme 2020-2021. Because of the national lockdown the culmination of the sacramental programme for the current Y4 will now take place after the Easter break in late April/early May. I am really sorry I can't be more specific yet, I will meet with Father Simon and get provisional dates out to you next week. Hopefully by then things will be better for all of us.

Please pray for: Everyone in our school family that we can stay safe. Please also keep the family of Anne Ellis RIP in your prayers.

Many thanks to everyone for their understanding, support and patience, it is much appreciated.

Mr Aldred Head teacher.



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