



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Update letter to parents (3) in response to Lockdown. **January 2021**

Dear Parents,

Key Worker provision. "If you can stay at home you MUST stay at home"

The numbers are now settled for the weeks ahead and at the risk of sounding like a broken record please keep your child/children at home if you can. The numbers testing positive within this postcode are continuing to rise the current rate per 100 000 resident population is 768.6. This is significantly above national averages. Admissions to hospitals in our city have risen by 35% and the situation remains precarious. Please do your utmost to stay at home as only then will school be able to open up for everyone.

A regular system of testing (lateral flow tests) of primary school staff is to be rolled out shortly. The aim of this is to identify not only positive cases but also asymptomatic people and thus break chains of transmission. I will write more about this in future updates as it will have implications for all of us. **The key worker provision will finish on Thursday February 11th for half term. On Friday 12th the school will be getting a "deep clean" and hence will be closed to all pupils.**

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.

Home Learning. Thank you for continuing to engage with the home learning in whatever way you can. There have been some wonderful examples of work going on at home and school is very grateful for your support with this matter. I repeat again what I wrote last week that the expectation is to do what you can when you can and nothing more. Every situation is different, each individual family will have issues to deal with so please remember, you can only do what you can, when you can.

Free School Meals. The vouchers are now available for those entitled to receive them. As I write just under 30% of families have already managed to access their voucher via an email that will have been sent to them from Edenred. Please check your inbox if you haven't already and please also look in your clutter or spam inboxes if you can't see an e mail. I am in the process of updating the guidance on the website and of course the school office is open, if anyone has a query simply call 464 6355.



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My thanks again to Mrs Coney and Mr Connaughton who have worked so hard to get the system up and running. The voucher lasts up until half term, what will happen after that is still a matter of conjecture. As soon as I know what will be happening I will let everyone know accordingly.

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.

Please pray for: Everyone in our school family that we can stay safe.

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

Mr Aldred Head teacher.



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