



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Perry Common Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 7AB

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Update letter to parents (5) in response to Lockdown. **February 2021**

Dear Parents,

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

Thankfully, school was able to reopen for key workers this week. Having to close the school site is not an easy decision to have to take and I am grateful to the governors firstly for their help and support with the issue. I am also indebted to the local authority and the public health division in particular who were very helpful with their advice stating that the action undertaken was a "cautious and risk averse approach minimising the chance of further cases". No further cases have been reported from all the close contacts so the decision to temporarily close was the correct one.

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. School is continuing to develop its home learning provision and we aim to begin "weekly zoom" sessions with everyone next week. Packs are being readied for half term for those that prefer use paper /worksheets. School is introducing "loom" into our Twitter feed shortly, which will enable those that use this method of home learning to access PowerPoints from their teachers. Finally, school has purchased a number of textbooks across all ranges that will be available when we return after half term, I will write more about this next week.

The staff have worked tremendously hard in getting all of this work ready. On line learning, creating packs, preparing lessons and teaching key worker children is a huge task and to all of them I offer my sincere thanks. I want to also thank Mrs Logue for all she has done and continues to do in coordinating all of this learning. School is dealing with an extremely complex situation trying to help as many families as we possibly can in a variety of different ways. To all concerned, I offer my sincere thanks.

Free School Meals. The vouchers over half term will be ready to redeem before the end of next week, I will write to those concerned accordingly.



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Lateral Flow Tests for school staff. Primary school staff across the country have been asked to start to administer regular lateral flow tests. Staff members are being asked to test themselves twice weekly checking for a positive or negative test result. A positive result would mean that “bubble” would have to close. The rationale behind this is to primarily find any asymptomatic carriers of the virus that could be spreading the disease without knowing they have the illness. Once more, I am grateful to Mrs Logue for overseeing this initiative and to the staff for responding so positively to the idea, thank you.

First Holy Communion 2021. I met with Father Simon earlier this week to consider our programme for the remainder of this year. Paramount in our thinking was making sure that all the children in Y3 make their First Holy Communion this year. Sadly, we still have some Y4 children that are yet to make their First Holy Communion and want to avoid a repeat of this next year. The restrictions we are working under will mean that we are going to have to change our programme to make sure it can happen before the summer. The children yet to make their First Holy Communion in Y4 will receive the sacrament after the Easter holiday in a series of Masses on a Friday morning. This pattern of Friday morning masses will continue in June and July so all of Y3 can make their First Holy Communion also. The guidelines set out sadly will not allow any large gatherings so two parents and any siblings will only be able to attend.

Father Simon and I agree that doing it this way will enable us to have smaller groups of children therefore adhering to the restrictions/guidelines. It will however also ensure that everyone makes his or her First Holy Communion this year.

Mr Barton will write to everyone next week with a specific Mass/ date and time for Y4 and Y3. I thank him for his work in organising this and thank Father Simon for his input.

This is not ideal but it will make sure everyone makes their First Holy Communion before school breaks up for the summer holidays

Half Term 2021. School will close at 3:00pm on Thursday February 11th, reopening for key worker families on Monday February 22nd.

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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