



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Update letter to parents (6) in response to Lockdown. **February 2021**

Dear Parents,

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

The key worker provision will finish today Thursday February 11th. To everyone that has used school over the last six weeks I hope it has helped you get to work. To all the staff for everything they have done a huge thank you. Everyone has been in school each day alternating between on line learning, teaching the key worker children and planning the curriculum. To all concerned many thanks.

School reopens for the children of key workers on Monday February 22nd.

Home Learning. Since Lockdown began, back in January school has been providing interactive work through individual Twitter feeds. Mental Maths at 9:00am, Maths at 10:00am, English at 11:00am RE at 1:00pm with Topic ending the day at 2:00pm. Live Music lessons have taken place each Friday, daily story time activities posted and a whole school assembly is available "virtually" to everyone each Friday. Daily prayers shared and the teachers send weekly newsletters home to each year group. The numbers accessing the on line provision are steadily growing with a current daily average of 135 children completing work each day, a fantastic effort. This week each class has also hosted a virtual wellbeing session over zoom. This is aimed at those children at home initially, as they are unable to come to school. The take up again has been significant with large numbers of children joining their teachers.

The online work is impressive, to everyone who has engaged THANK YOU! School has also prepared fortnightly packs for those families that would prefer this style of work/learning. So far, over 150 packs have been sent home, again to everyone thank you for preparing, engaging and doing whatever you can when you can. For those eligible laptops have been shared to help those families access the learning, all of which will continue until we can all return to school. Finally school has tried to reach as many families not in school as we can, to everyone that has taken part, prepared, planned and put into place this unprecedented plan many thanks.

Free School Meals. The vouchers over half term are now starting to be sent out. They should reach everyone over the next few days, please keep an eye on your inboxes for the new vouchers.



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The updated guidance will also be placed on the school website. Please check your inboxes. Thanks to Mrs Coney and Mr Connaughton for their efforts in getting the vouchers ready.

Safer Internet day. Tuesday saw school once again mark “Safer Internet Day”. It was discussed across a variety of different platforms in a number of different ways and styles. Thank you to all concerned.

Return to School. The proposed date and method of returning all children to school has yet to be confirmed. As soon, I have an understanding about what is being asked of schools I will write to everyone with a plan as to how best we can respond. I hope that this will be sorted out as soon as possible after half term.

Nursery Class 2021-2022. School is accepting applications for Nursery next year. Please contact the school office (464 6355) for further details.

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. The staff at St Margaret Marys will begin testing on Monday February 22nd the day key worker children return after half term. I am grateful to Mrs Logue for overseeing this initiative and to the staff for responding so positively to the idea, thank you.

Governing Body. I met with the governors yesterday to feedback to them how the half term has progressed since going into lockdown. Thanks to them for their continued support over the last few weeks, it is much appreciated.

First Holy Communion 2021. Mr Barton has written to everyone this week with a specific Mass/ date and time for Y4 and Y3. As I wrote last week due to the current restrictions, First Holy Communion will have to be organised differently this year. Father Simon and I agree that to make sure everyone receives the sacrament this year, we will need to organise small groups of families over a number of Friday morning Masses. I am extremely grateful to Father for his input into this matter, his workload has increased significantly as a result but everyone will now be able to make his or her First Holy Communion before the summer holidays, many thanks Father.

Confirmation 2021. Due to the current situation, it will not be possible for everyone to be confirmed as we had hoped on June 9th. The numbers in church would exceed what is deemed safe; as a result, Father Simon and I hope to be able to write to Y6 with a “safe alternative” after half term. Thank you Y6 families for your patience with this matter.

School Office. With half term upon us, I wanted to write and formally thank the school office. Throughout this period of lockdown, both Mrs Coney and Mrs Cooney are having to deal with things that are outside their normal job descriptions. Both are managing an ever-changing situation with great efficiency and no shortage of patience and skill. To both of them I offer my sincere thanks. The school office is a crucial hub of school life and St Margaret Mary’s is very fortunate to have Mrs Coney and Mrs Cooney to manage it.

Half Term 2021. School will close at 3:00pm today 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 over half term. Many thanks to everyone for their understanding, support and patience. Mr Aldred Head teacher.



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