



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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### **Update letter to parents (7) in response to Lockdown.** **March 2021**

Dear Parents,

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

**The key worker provision will finish next Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.** Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> will see everyone return to school as per the government's announcement earlier this week. I apologise for having to close the school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> but a significant amount of work will need to be done in getting the school ready for the return of everyone on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A number of classrooms and communal areas will need all the furniture putting back something that we cannot really do safely with children on the site. Next week will be my final letter in our "response to Lockdown" format, after March 8<sup>th</sup> I will once again write to everyone every Friday with a Home School Letter.

**Home Learning.** The "Home Learning" will draw to a close next week. I wrote last week about the amount of time and effort staff have invested in this, to each one of them, thank you. The future of home learning/interactive homework I think is now here to stay. Indeed, in the short term if any "bubbles" have to close between now and July (and hopefully they won't!) work will continue in the same way we have been operating over the last six weeks. I do however think there will be a part to play for this kind of learning to develop and evolve further as things return to "normal". Could I ask those families that used a school laptop to please return them to school next Thursday (3<sup>rd</sup>) please.

Finally can I just mention the textbooks school purchased for everyone that are available from the school office. If you haven't been given/collected, yours please call the school to arrange to pick them up. They will really help everyone both now and in the medium term as we start "catching up" with the time we have missed from school.

**Free School Meals.** The vouchers for the next two weeks are now available for everyone to redeem. The vouchers are up to and including March 5<sup>th</sup>. Beyond March 5<sup>th</sup> obviously everyone will be back at school so the school dinners will recommence as normal on the 8<sup>th</sup>. As for FSM vouchers over Easter/Summer as and when there are any developments with this issue I will write and let those concerned know. Thanks once more to Mrs Coney and Mr Connaughton for their efforts in getting the vouchers ready.



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**Return to School.** Thankfully, everyone can now return to school on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>. I wrote to everyone yesterday about how this process is to be managed; a copy of the letter is also on our website if anyone didn't receive a copy. The office kindly sent hard copies home with key worker children today also. If anyone has any concerns/worries please call school, I have spoken to staff about the reopening and said that for some (children and staff alike) returning to school may be an anxious time. Together however, supporting one another and helping one another we can get everyone back to school where they belong.

**SATs/Phonics screening/Times Tables test.** The government has announced that no statutory testing in primary schools will take place this academic year. The plan is for these tests to resume in 2022. As and when there are further details about this school will write to everyone early in the new school year.

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

**Secondary School Admissions 2021.** Secondary school "offer day" is next Monday. Information has been sent to families of Year 6 pupils who applied on time, explaining the process for them receiving their offers. This information is set out on the council's website at [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/Year\\_7\\_offer\\_day](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/Year_7_offer_day)

Offer emails will be sent on Monday 1 March 2021, and we expect that families will receive their email by 4pm. The exact time will depend on email service providers. Families will also receive their child's offer by letter from 2 March 2021. Families only need to contact School Admissions if they are refusing the offer. If families do not contact us to refuse the offer by 15th March, the offer will be accepted.

**First Holy Communion 2021.** A further reminder that Mr Barton has written to everyone last week with a specific Mass/ date and time for Y4 and Y3. Everyone will now be able to make his or her First Holy Communion before the summer holidays, many thanks Father.

**Confirmation 2021.** As soon as I have definitive news about Confirmation I will let Y6 know.

**Please pray for:** Everyone in our school family that we can stay safe and that March 8<sup>th</sup> can see a smooth return to school life for everyone.

Many thanks to everyone for their understanding, support and patience.

Mr Aldred Head teacher.



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