



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Ayr Drive, Jarrow NE32 4AW Tel. 0191 4898336: Fax. 0191 4898338

Acting Executive Head Teacher: Mrs. M. Graham

Acting Head of School: Mrs. A. Tumelty

soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Hopefully most of you by now will have adapted to our temporary new topsy-turvy world. You only have to look on YouTube to see what lots of families all around the country are doing to pass their time. If you get a moment, why not have a look at "Les Mis Lock Down" on YouTube just to see The Marsh Family from Kent who are using their time to bond and entertain many people across the country.

Thank you to everyone who has started to post their Easter egg photos on Facebook, they are looking great. Well done, we look forward to seeing more as they are posted. We responded to a plea from the hospital to send Easter Eggs to the elderly people stuck on ward 19 and their family can't visit, some of our children who were in school then coloured rainbow pictures and made Easter Egg cards and we dropped them off at the hospital and they were gratefully received. We also dropped in some chocolates, pictures, and cards to the A and E department to let them know we think all of our NHS are doing a fantastic job. On Wednesday some of our children were drawing more pictures for some of the other wards and departments.

Whilst we are missing the children so much in school you might be worrying about the impact on your child's education of not being in school? I cannot over emphasise how important I believe it is for you not to try to replicate our school environment, do what you can. A big change is taking place in your child's life right now: their comfortable, safe, predictable world has just been turned upside-down. Consider how much we, as adults, are struggling to get our heads around our current predicament; now magnify that ten-fold to see it from a child's perspective. Many of our children are still coming to terms with not seeing their friends on a daily basis and yes, I expect they're all missing their teachers too! Whatever happens, when the time comes, we will make sure your child has all the tools they need to succeed.

All this said our great staff team shall continue to put plenty of tasks onto the website and class pages. Please take time to hunt through these carefully, since they are being updated frequently. In particular, take a moment to look through the Educational Websites as Mrs Colley is uploading more and more for you to access. However, the children will gain just as much learning if you take time to sit down and play a board game with them, read a book; get them to join in with the washing up, get them to work alongside you as you do jobs around the house - doing the laundry, tidying up the garden, helping to prepare the dinner, explaining and discussing things as you go - in that context you will be the best teachers in the world. But hey, I know that many of you will have been doing this already. We look forward to hearing what they have been getting involved with at home. My son who is 19 now has clothes that will fit some of our children in Year 2 as he has put all his clothes in the tumble dryer and shrank them! I am sure he has just done this so I will do all of his washing from now on! We know what they are like.

We continue to keep school open for the children of key workers who are unable to work from home. Please remember if you need any support from school or need to book your child in to email us the day before at: keyworkers@stmarysjarrow.co.uk



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



North East
Better Health
at Work Award
Gold Award



Building
stronger
families





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Bishop Chadwick

Myself, Mrs Tumelty, Mrs Smith pick up emails every day so please do contact us if you need some support or if you just feel you want to speak to someone and we will be in touch with you or if you know of anyone who would benefit from a personal message from school - or phone call, please let us know and we will get in touch. If you or someone you know, are anxious about finances or about providing basic provisions, please contact us. We will try to support in any way we can. :
soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk

Free School Meals

Under normal circumstances, schools are not expected to provide free school meals to eligible children who are not attending due to illness or if the school is closed. However, during the COVID-19 outbreak the government has committed to providing support to these children. Families of FSM children will receive their £15 voucher per child. They will be able to redeem them in shops by either presenting the voucher on a smartphone or tablet or using a paper copy of the voucher. We are processing these for our families now so you should have received this information via email or will receive it very soon. If you don't receive them, please contact us. Families are free to select the most appropriate food and drink for their child. The vouchers should not be redeemed for any age-restricted items.

We continue to accept free school meal applications from anyone who thinks they are now eligible, including Nursery parents. Applications and enquiries can be returned to the general school email account : soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk Full guidance is given below.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools

We are all feeling the effects of this crisis but please try and have a good Easter break, what gives me strength is knowing we are all together in mind if not in body, that our school is not just about the building, it is about the people in it - the pupils, the volunteers, the staff, the parents and the wider community that surround us; we are all St Mary's family.

Happy Easter, take care, stay safe and stay well. Please pass all our love on to the children,

Mrs M. Graham



Our school ducks
are getting big.



My brothers dog being home schooled.



Pictures and Easter eggs sent
to the hospital. Well done.



North East
Better Health
at Work Award
Gold Award



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