



Work, play, pray - together

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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

Executive Head Teacher Mrs M.Graham BEd. (Hons) NPQH

Head of School Mrs A Tumelty (BA Hons) NPQH

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

Dear families,

Another week has passed, and we are all still fit and well, which is amazing news. We have had no indication of how long this situation will last, so just prioritise trying to stay safe. I hope you have all managed to keep entertained throughout the week, even though the weather has been miserable. The sun is predicted to shine on Sunday, so make the most of it. I will try to write to you all every few weeks, so keep an eye out for my letters.

Keyworkers

School should be closing for the Easter holidays today, but we are staying open to help those who need to get to work to help fight COVID-19. I would like to say thank you for staying at home. Please remember that school is only open for children of key workers and only when the key worker needs to be at work. If you do not need to be at work or have alternative provision, then that is the best option to keep everyone safe. We are trying our best to keep the children entertained whilst they are at school, but home is definitely the best place for them where possible. I have attached some images at the end of the letter. The cards are being sent to South Tyneside Hospital to help cheer people up.

If you do need to book children in, then please email keyworkers@stmarysjarrow.co.uk and if possible, we need to know in advance for the week. Mrs Smith is trying her best to keep on top of the emails, so please help her by emailing to the correct email address. I need to bring staff in to supervise this and it is a must that we have the correct amount of staff. I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff in school: teachers, teaching assistants, kitchen staff, office staff and cleaners who are all doing their part to keep the children safe in school, please help them stay safe by staying at home when possible.

If we do not have any children booked in on certain days, then we will not be open. It is therefore vital that you keep us up to date with your needs. We will, of course, open when needed. If you have booked your child in, then please let us know if they are not attending as it will reduce the amount of staff that are needed in school.

School trips

At the present time, we have not cancelled the residential trips, but the likelihood is that the trips will be postponed to a later date. I will keep you up to date as soon as we know more. Please be assured that all the money paid is safe and that families will not lose any money if the trips do change.

Easter egg decoration challenge

We are holding an Easter egg decoration challenge during next week. Please post your photographs on our Facebook site on Good Friday. We don't want to waste food, so feel free to use egg shaped alternatives!

Happy news!

Congratulations to Miss O'Reilly, our reception teacher, who is due to have a baby in the summer. Miss O'Reilly is staying safe and is currently working from home – hopefully she is being well looked after by her partner and daughter.



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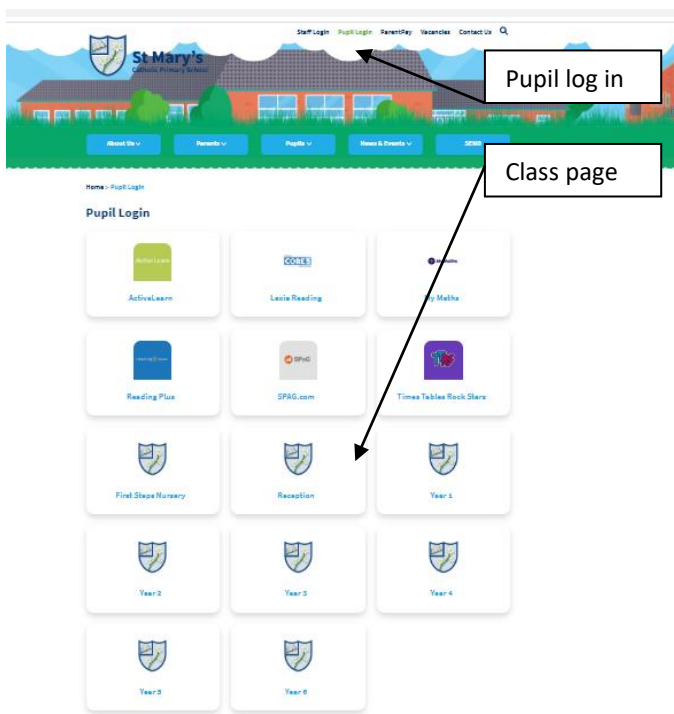
School contact

You should have all had two weekly calls from class teachers or staff so far. They will be phoning you all each week, just as a catch up, but please don't wait until they contact you if you need help. I phoned a few families myself this week and it was lovely talking to you all.

The staff have been working hard during the last few weeks, either in school or from home. Unless they are on the rota for key workers, they will be having a rest from school work and therefore they will not be phoning during the Easter holidays, but again please contact school if you need help.

Home study

Before school closed, we allocated each child with approximately two-weeks' worth of paper based school work to complete. Each week the teachers are placing a home-study guide on the school website www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk, under the pupil log in at the top of the homepage. We will add a home study guide on the website over the holidays, but it is a guide only.



We will be reviewing the home/school work during the holidays and I will let you know the outcome soon. We are not expecting all the work to be completed - everyone's physical and mental health is more of a priority. It is not easy to teach your children at home; I am a teacher and yet every day I argue with my eight-year-old at home about his school work! Remember that you can only do your best and we will deal with the education side of things on the return to school.



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Additional support

Our staff are happy to help you get through the upcoming weeks of change.

Children entitled to Free School Meals will be receiving food vouchers via email, the vouchers have restrictions on them so please only attempt to spend them on food for the family. If you believe that you are entitled to free school meals, then let the office know. Our academy trust has put together nearly 1000 food packages for families entitled to Free School Meals and our staff delivered St. Mary's packages this week to support families over the holidays as there are no vouchers provided during this time. Please remember that the entitlement of Free School Meals is not the same as Universal Infant Free School Meals which all children in reception, year one and year 2 are entitled to.

We are also aware that some parents will have a reduced wage or no wage during the lock-down; if you find that you are needing additional support including food, then please phone school or email soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk. We will be very confidential and will try our best to help you.

Email reminders

soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk for general enquires

keyworkers@stmarysjarrow.co.uk for key worker support

homestudyhelp@stmarysjarrow.co.uk for any queries or support regarding work that has been allocated

Please take care and keep up the hand-washing!

Mrs. A. Tumelty
Head of School



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