

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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RE: Government Coronavirus Update

18th March 2020

Dear Parents

This afternoon the Government announced that schools will close for the vast majority of children from Friday afternoon 20th March. Tomorrow, Thursday, we will send your child home with their Maths No Problem work book and an exercise book. If you do not want your child to attend school on Thursday and Friday you can collect these resources from the school office.

Work to support home learning will be uploaded to the website (www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk/home-learning.html) from Monday 23rd March. These home learning packs are not yet online.

We are planning on providing provision for home learning for the remaining 14 weeks of this academic year – through to July. A new home learning pack will be uploaded every week.

Thank you for your support over this last couple of weeks! I know from speaking to many of you that you are nervous and anxious about having your child/ren in school and mixing with others. We have been told that the usual attendance regulations have been suspended so please be reassured that you will not be penalised if your child is not in school on Thursday or Friday or if your child has been in isolation at home before today.

The Government is clear that all schools have a role to play in remaining open to provide for the children of key workers and children with EHCPs. Tomorrow I will contact you again once it is clear how the Government has identified who and who are not seen as 'key workers'. I plan to publish an online questionnaire for key workers tomorrow (once the definition is published) so that I can understand your needs over the next 14 weeks. **I will contact parents of children with EHCPs individually tomorrow so that I can understand your needs, whether you want your child in school or would prefer to have them at home.** This will help me best deploy staff and develop a robust plan for the next 14 weeks. Any plan needs to be able to withstand the uncertainties of staff illness and absence due to them self-isolating. I am investigating partnering with local schools to build in even more robustness.

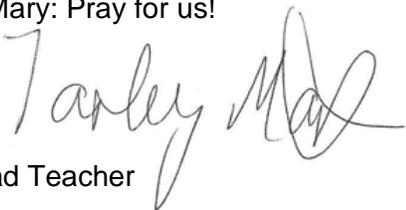
With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

At the moment we know that the vast majority of children will not be in school and I anticipate that most staff will work from home. This means that children who are in school would probably be in amalgamated groups with a range of ages in each class.

I will get back to you with firmer plans once I know what the uptake from you will be.

Thank you for your continued support and the very best wishes to you all.

St Mary: Pray for us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Arley' followed by a stylized flourish.

Head Teacher

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