

ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Thursday 9th April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Children, Families, Friends, Staff and Governors,

I hope you have all spent a pleasant week at home, with family in your house, whilst enjoying a bit of sunshine, possibly on your daily walks. Today we should have finished at 1pm for the Easter holidays, alas it was not meant to be.

However, during the past few weeks we have all settled into our new way of life and are beginning to come to terms with the changes we have had to make to our lives. As I expected, the English Martyrs' family have all risen to the challenge in a positive fashion.

All the fantastic staff have done an absolutely sterling job both in person in school and also from home: teachers who have managed to keep pupils up to date with Home Learning, whilst working with some of our support staff who have allowed the school to stay open for the children of key workers, Mr Green our Site Supervisor who has cleaned school and re-cleaned it consistently to within an inch of its life, Mr Gillespie our Chair of Governors and all our governors who have offered support in the face of the challenges presented. Also, the fine army of parents who have sent in chocolates, cakes, flowers and rainbows and cards to keep our spirits up whilst in school.

A HUGE THANK YOU to you all!

School is remaining open throughout the Easter holidays including over Easter Weekend for the children of Key Workers and some vulnerable children. Advice remains from Government to keep all children at home where possible if it is safe for them to do so.

During the 'Easter holidays', we want our pupils to enjoy some downtime. We will not be setting work for this period as they also need to have time to recuperate from the strain of this testing term.

We are really impressed with all the responses to class emails and the work that has been set on line and I have been extremely impressed with the positive responses to my Daily Challenges, thank you! I will be sending a link on Tuesday for a 'Bumper Easter Pack' of daily challenges which if your children want to (or you as parents!) can do.

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In the coming weeks, we will be sending home interim reports through the post. Please look out for these.

Earlier this week, you should have received a letter from our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, which included a leaflet for staying safe, staying at home and following guidance. Please read this and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me or phone me at school.

Recently, the Local Authority has compiled some useful guidance for pupils who are learning at home and has produced some advice for pupils whose mental health and well-being may become affected by the crisis. I have added this information to school website and would recommend that parents and pupils read the content carefully.

Despite being on Lockdown and School Closure, we still had our Easter Competitions, not on the grand scale as usual, however we do have 6 winners:

Christopher Miller and Lacey Miller, Sophie Denwood and Charlie Denwood, Pola and Ola Dydzian

Well done all of you! A tasty Easter surprise will be hopping its way to you soon and landing on your doorsteps!

We still do not know when we will all be together again and without doubt, This year's Holy Week in school has been a very unusual one with no Liturgies or days of reflection, however, I think in recent times we are all spending more time reflecting, thinking of those close to us, especially the ones we are not able to be with and thinking about how we should grasp the chances given to us in life with both hands.

Please take care this Easter, please stay at home, please DO NOT MEET UP or let your children meet up with friends. Stay safe, keep in touch and wishing you and all your families a happy and blessed Easter.

*Annalisa Howarth
Headteacher*