

Coronavirus/Covid 19 Daily Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised please find below as much information as we are able to provide at present. We will regularly keep you posted as we learn more ourselves. Just to say thank you so much for all your supportive and kind messages, love and prayers. We are a strong community and we will get through this together.

Friday

Please only send your child to school if they are fit and well and have not come into contact with anyone exhibiting the signs of Covid19.

School Closure

From Friday afternoon, school will be closed until further notice for all children other than those outlined by the Government, we are awaiting a definitive list from the Government and I will be in touch with you as soon as I have received this, if you have not already requested a place on the Key Worker register please send in your child's name and year group and tell us the key worker role of the adults in your house.

School will remain open for as long as we can for the following children:

- Children of keyworkers (list to be published by the government today).
- Those considered to be vulnerable – those who are looked after and those with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP)

It is **not compulsory** for these children to attend school and will certainly become problematic when travel restrictions are in place or staff cannot attend. Schools are to be open to these groups where closure would prevent key workers from going to work, child care will be provided for the children whilst the key workers are at work during the school day. The school will not be teaching any new content, the children will complete their home learning packs and online learning as those children will be doing at home.

As much as we would like to, we cannot be open for all children or those not desperately in need. This is a national school closure and this decision wouldn't have been taken if it wasn't in the best interests of the nation and the public health of all concerned.

WE WILL SEND AN EMAIL LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW REQUESTING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM RELEVANT PARENTS/CARERS AS TO WHETHER THEY EXPECT THEIR CHILDREN TO BE IN SCHOOL NEXT WEEK AND WHICH SESSIONS THEY WOULD BE ATTENDING.

Home-learning

Please refer to my previous emails about accessing on-line activities. All children that were in school today took home their learning packs, this includes a suggested timetable of activities for the day. This applies to all students. Staff are also preparing a range of other activities and the website will be updated accordingly.

For families not in school we will be opening the gate to the school playground tomorrow between 11 and 12 so you can collect home learning packs and PE kits if you wish. Please let the office know in advance if you intend to do this so we can ensure your belongings are ready for you.

Finally...

Stay positive. We are a faith community and are a people of HOPE. This time will pass, however tough it may be, we pray that we will emerge stronger, kinder, more compassionate and appreciative of the wonder of life. A prayer being shared a lot online is copied below ...

Warm regards

Mrs Irvine

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM March 13th 2020