

Dear Children, Parent and Carers,

The staff and I, hope you are all keeping safe and well; you are in our thoughts and prayers.

In the unprecedented time we find ourselves in, we are all finding things a bit difficult, so if you have any real worries or concerns or you need some support then please do contact the school and let us know. Even though, we have a small number of staff in school, we have got staff (Mrs Pattinson and Jenny Ranson - our Family Support Worker) who can phone families and signpost them to support available in the local community. The school office is open from 08.45-3.00pm Monday to Friday.

You can also find support from:

Free@last
49 Nechells Park Road
Nechells,
Birmingham.
B7 5PR.
TEL: 0121 327 5959

They are open from 10am-12.00pm and offer lots of support and advice as well as working as a local food bank.

and

Call Nechells POD team on 07305 862 545 - Rachel Perks
28 Oliver street,
Nechells,
Birmingham.
B7 4NX.

They are offering a sign posting service and are a good contact for the local housing team if you are having any issues.

Keep safe and God bless

Key/Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children:

Currently, St Joseph's Catholic School is open to a few of our children who are the children of key/critical workers or are classed as vulnerable children. If, at any point over the coming weeks, your situation changes, so for example you become classed as a key/critical worker and you have no one to look after your child/ren during the school day, you may be eligible for them to come into school. Please do get in touch with the school to discuss your situation, if it changes, and we can talk about your needs. The school office is open from 08.45-3.00pm Monday to Friday.

Spiritual Communion:

The following website facilitates the live streaming of Mass. St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, Our Lady of Lourdes, Yardley Wood, Our Lady and St Brigid, Northfield, St Ambrose Barlow, Hall Green and St Edwards, Selly Park are some local churches where Mass can be viewed at various times.

<https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>

Some resources that are available for you to use as a family have been provided by the Archdiocese of Birmingham and some groups they work with, below is a list of these that you may want to look at:

- Weekly Worship and Song: Week 5 is now on YouTube and can be accessed here https://youtu.be/bs36zxL_EE8 or from the DES website page <https://www.bdes.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-and-learning.html>
- The Lay Chaplain at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, Birmingham is sharing daily Collective Worship and this is being uploaded at the start of every week <https://www.bdes.org.uk/shared-resources-from-diocesan-schools.html>
- Ten Ten Theatre Company are also providing free resources for:
Sunday Liturgies for Families at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/sunday-liturgy-for-families/>
Daily Prayer for Home at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/daily-prayers-for-home/>
15 Prayers During School Closure at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/15-prayers/>
- New prayer resources from Kenelm Youth Trust and ST John Fisher, Newcastle at: <https://www.bdes.org.uk/shared-resources-from-diocesan-schools.html>

As a family community, we pray:

Lord God, we entrust to you the families and communities affected by Coronavirus, wherever they may be.

We pray especially for health care workers, that you may guide and protect them.

We pray that your Spirit might inspire those researching new medicines and treatments.

And in the midst of this, keep us strong in faith, hope and love. Grant us the courage and perseverance to be good neighbours.

May the words of your Son Jesus Christ in the Our Father, be our prayer as we entrust ourselves and all of us who are affected to your infinite power and love.

Amen.

The reopening of schools:

As mentioned last week, currently the government has given **no date** as to when **schools will reopen** and have said they **cannot give a date in the foreseeable future either**. There is still a lot of speculation in the media about schools reopening and how this might possibly happen, but currently they will remain closed to the majority of pupils for the foreseeable future.

Online resources:

On Monday 20th April, two new online resources have begun, which are supported by the DfE. [BBC Bitesize](#) online lessons for both secondary and primary pupils.

The [Oak National academy](#) has online lessons for each year group up to Y10.

Both of these services feature online lessons which will be updated on a weekly basis from now on. In both cases, there are weekly plans of lessons that children can access. These resources are available for you to use with your children, but please do check the resources beforehand to make sure you are happy with the content of them.

Online phonics lessons for Letters and Sounds

Two English Hub schools, have produced online phonics lessons for the **Letters and Sounds programme**.

The online lessons are designed to cover new phonics teaching that children would have received over the **summer term** had they been in school.

There will be three sets of lessons:

- Reception;
 - Year 1, based on where children are expected to be in the summer term;
 - Lessons for the lowest 20% of children.
- Lessons are daily, from Monday to Friday, and are timetabled as detailed below.
- Lessons will stay on the site and can be watched at any time throughout the summer term.

11 am*	<u>Learning to blend</u> <u>Phase 2 recap</u>	For children in Reception and Year 1 who need extra practice sounding and reading words such as 'tap' 'cap' 'mat' 'pat'
10 am*	<u>Reception Summer term</u> <u>Phases 3 & 4</u>	For Reception children who can blend and read words such as 'fish' 'chat' and 'rain'
10:30 am*	<u>Year 1 Summer term</u> <u>Phase 5</u>	For Year 1 children who can confidently blend and read words such as 'stamp' 'chair' and 'green'

[The Little Sutton English Hub](#) and [Wandle English Hub](#), have produced a pack for schools which will enable them to advertise this support and provide advice to parents.

This includes a [letter to parents and a twitter pack](#) to advertise the programme and the times of lessons.

Lessons are written and presented by phonics experts and will be available from [Letters and Sounds for home and school](#).

The lessons are provided free for all schools, funded by the DfE, and will **begin on 27th April**.

Home Learning Packs:

As a school we will still be issuing our home learning resources, every Monday. Teachers will continue to add learning resources and activities onto our new 'Home Learning' page on our website. On our home page there is a link to the page, so you can find your child's year group activities easily.

If your child or one or more of your children **are in Years 4, 5 and 6** please encourage them to go onto Kidblog and do some of the work their teachers have been setting for them on there. If they have lost their login details or were absent from school when they were given out, please do contact school as we can ensure we get the login details to you.

Helping children with SEND continue education:

On the 19th April, DfE released advice for parents and carers looking after children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The guidance gives parents access to:

- a list of [online education resources for children with SEND](#);
- [coronavirus educational resources](#) from The Sensory Projects;
- [SEND-specific resources for learning from home](#) from Tech Ability;
- [advice on supporting children with a learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder \(ASD\)](#) from the Council for Disabled Children;
- [recommendations on special educational needs](#) from the Education Endowment Foundation.

Please hover over the writing in blue and then press control and click you will be able to access these resources.

Contact details for SENAR:

Birmingham City Council have sent out contact details for the SENAR team for parents who need to contact them about their SEND child. Please note the NEW contact details if you need to get in touch with the team who will ensure your enquiry is dealt with in a timely manner.

Families who would like to speak to someone about their child, please call our Parent Link Service on 0121 303 8461 or email parentlinkservice@birmingham.gov.uk

Mental Health and Well-being:

To support children's mental health and well-being across Birmingham, a new service has been set up called Kooth. **Kooth** is being provided now as a free, safe and anonymous service to support young people's emotional and mental health in Birmingham. Because young people have suddenly had exams cancelled, transition arrangements thrown up in the air and are dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on their loved ones this is important. The new service was successfully launched on Monday 13th April for young people from year 6, aged 11 up to 25. The full offer, including online self-referral can be accessed at www.kooth.com.

Kooth is linked into the wider mental health support from Forward Thinking Birmingham and offers:

- Online **mental health counselling** and **chat** services from midday to 10pm during the week, and 6pm to 10pm at weekends
- **Peer to peer support** through moderated discussion forums
- **Self-care tools and resources** to build resilience
- **Early response to and identification** of emotional wellbeing and mental health problems
- And there are **no waiting lists**, referrals or thresholds to access the service

Mental health support offer

A range of new, easily accessible mental health support is now available for patients in Birmingham and Solihull, based around four groups:

- 0-18 year olds in Birmingham
- 0-19 year olds in Solihull
- Over 18s in Birmingham and Solihull
- Key workers.

These services are provided by a range of local organisations, and offer emotional help, guidance and reassurance to people in Birmingham and Solihull who may be finding the current Coronavirus situation overwhelming. The web link will take you to the website and give you more information.

<https://www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/your-health/mental-health-support-offer>

Free School Meals:

Free School Meal Voucher codes continue to be sent out via a company called Edenred to the email address we hold for family **who are entitled to receive them**. Last week, the DfE informed schools that Edenred were experiencing a high level of demand on the website and this was slowing down their ability to send all the emails with the codes in, out to parents on the date schools had asked for them to be sent. With this in mind they have asked us to let parents know it could take up to 4 days for the email to be issued to you, so most families should be receipt of the email by Thursday at the latest. If by Friday morning you haven't had your voucher code email, please do contact the school and we will investigate what has happened. I am also led to understand that many families are experiencing long waiting times when trying to redeem their voucher code, please be patient with the website there are thousands of families across the country all trying to redeem their vouchers each week and this is making the website run very slowly.

Staying Safe Online:

We know that children will be online more as we all stay in our homes. It is really important that we ensure our children are safe online too. Here are some resources which are particularly helpful. Please check out the parental control section which gives advice to help parents put parental controls on any devices their children are using at home.

Keeping up to date with the latest apps

NSPCC's Net Aware provides simple guides for parents to the most popular social networks, app and games. Simply type in the app you wish to review in the search bar and the website will provide you with some useful information to help parents make an informed decision.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Parental Controls

Internet Matters.org has produced excellent resources on setting up parental controls in a step by step format. Simply click on the links below to explore ways in which parents can set up parental controls on digital devices and popular social media apps. Each circular icon that is loaded represents a guide and can be accessed by simply clicking on the icon.

Parental controls on; **Smartphones and other devices**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>

Parental controls on; **Entertainment and search engines**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/>

Parental controls on; **Broadband and mobile networks**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

Parental controls on; **Social media**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/social-media/>

Parental controls on; **Gaming console**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/blog/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>

General Information

There is also a good attachment from CEOP – this link is appropriate for primary aged pupils

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/thinkuknow/documents/thinkuknow/parents/pdf/thinkuknow-parents-helpsheet-primary.pdf>

Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

Internet matters –

https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=EAlalQobChMIktuA5LWK2wIVRYXVCh2afg2aEAAYASAAEgIJ5vD_BwE

Net-aware – support for parents and carers from the NSPCC - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Parent info - <https://parentinfo.org/>

Thinkuknow – for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online -

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

UK Safer Internet Centre - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Childline – support for children -

[https://www.childline.org.uk/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=UK_GO_S_B_BND_Grant_Childline_Information&utm_term=role_of_childline&gclid=EAlalQobChMIlflRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD_BwE&gclid=EAlalQobChMIlflRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD_BwE&gclid=EAlalQobChMIlflRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD_BwE](https://www.childline.org.uk/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=UK_GO_S_B_BND_Grant_Childline_Information&utm_term=role_of_childline&gclid=EAlalQobChMIlflRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD_BwE&gclid=EAlalQobChMIlflRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD_BwE&gclid=EAlalQobChMIlflRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD_BwE&gclid=EAlalQobChMIlflRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD_BwE)

UK Safer Internet Centre – reporting harmful content - <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>

CEOP – advice on making a report about online abuse - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Useful Contacts

NSPCC – 0800 800 5000

Childline – 0800 1111

Samaritans – 116 123

Mind – 0300 123 3393