

## **Dear Children, Parent and Carers,**

On Monday, I sent out a letter explaining that the governors, senior leadership team and I will be spending the next few weeks carefully planning how we can possibly reopen the school to some year groups at the beginning of June. As I also stated in that letter, it is critical that school is a safe environment for our staff, our children and our families to be in, so St Joseph's Governors and I will not reopen the school until we believe it is safe for us to do so.

In the last few days, guidance from the Department for Education, has come out to schools explaining why Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are the classes the government wants to return first and also with things schools should do to reduce the risks for the children and staff returning to school. With this information we have started carefully planning how to go about partially reopening the school, but it is not something we can rush as we have a lot to think about and sort out. When I am able to give you more information about how we plan to organise and run the school I will. Please bear with us, as your children and the staffs' safety is of the upmost importance to us.

### **The government's reasoning for why Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 should be the first year groups to return to school are:**

- ❖ These 3 year groups are key transition years
- ❖ Children in Reception and Year 1 are at the beginning of their school careers and are mastering essential basics, including counting and the fundamentals of reading and writing, and are learning to socialise with their peers.
- ❖ Year 6 children are finishing Key Stage 2 and are preparing for the transition to secondary school, and will benefit from time with friends and teachers to ensure they are ready for this.

If you have anxiety about sending your child/children to school please do contact school, so we are aware of your feelings on this.

### **Phone calls to the children from their teachers**

This week, some of the teachers, who have been in school, have started ringing children in their classes. I know that, both the children and the teachers, have enjoyed these conversations and the teachers have been telling me how successfully they have been. Next week, teachers from Years 2 and 6 will be ringing the children in their classes.

### **Support available**

School will remain open next week, 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, Mrs Carpenter 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](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/sunday-liturgies-for-families/>  
Daily Prayer for Home at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/daily-prayers-for-home/>  
15 Prayers During School Closure at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/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>

- Kenelm Youth Trust have also put together the first in a video series called 'How to Pray', which is released every Wednesday – you can find the links to it on all their social media channels and You Tube.  
Instagram: @Soli\_kyt  
Facebook: solikyt  
YouTube: <https://youtu.be/JEAvu7HuW7w>
- **Masses for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-line workers and those in Social Care:** Thursday 7pm. This week the Mass is being celebrated in Leeds Cathedral by Bishop Marcus Stock (formerly of the Archdiocese of Birmingham) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-xVdN6rMCG0sSgk8Rulow>



Ten:Ten Resources

### **Online resources:**

Please do keep using the online resources made available from [BBC Bitesize](#) and the [Oak National academy](#) as they have online lessons for each year group up to Y10.

Both of these services feature online lessons which are updated on a weekly basis.

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.

### **Phonics resources online for reception and Year 1:**

In the last 2 weeks two English Hub has been providing 3 phonics lessons a day. There are three different daily phonic lessons for the Birmingham English Hub available on the following YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP\\_FbjYUP\\_UtldV2K\\_-niWw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw/videos).

They are posted daily at 10am Reception, 10.30am Year 1 and 11am "Learning to Blend" (Reception

and Year 1 who need more practice). These can be accessed anytime with different lessons every time.

### **Home Learning Packs:**

As a school, we are continuing to issue our home learning resources, every Monday. Teachers 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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>

### **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=EAIaIQobChMIktuA5LWK2wIVRYXVCh2afg2aEAYASAAEgIJ5vD\\_BwE](https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIktuA5LWK2wIVRYXVCh2afg2aEAYASAAEgIJ5vD_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=EAIaIQobChMIiFLRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD\\_BwE&gclid=aw.ds](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=EAIaIQobChMIiFLRh-ez6AIVRrDtCh1N9QR2EAAYASAAEgLC-vD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds)

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 – 0808 800 5000

Childline – 0800 1111

Samaritans – 116 123

Mind – 0300 123 3393

### **NSPCC helpline**

The NSPCC helpline has been expanded, so more adults know where to go with concerns about the safety and wellbeing of any children. Some common signs that there may be something concerning happening in a child's life include:

- aggressive or repeated shouting
- hearing hitting or things being broken
- children crying for long periods of time
- very young children left alone or are outdoors by themselves
- children looking dirty or not changing their clothes
- children being withdrawn or anxious.

The NSPCC helpline, which has around 100 staff, can be reached 24 hours a day by email – [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) - or through its online reporting form. Its team of experts can also be called Monday to Friday 8am-10pm or 9am-6pm at the weekends on 0808 800 5000.