

STJJ NEWS



St John and St James C of E Primary School Newsletter

30th March 2020

From the Headteacher

I am writing to update you on what has been happening at St John and St James this week during this national coronavirus emergency. As you will know, the message from the prime Minister and the government is clear

Stay home, protect the NHS, save lives.

We have missed the children terribly at school this last week but I am sure that you will have joined in with the heart-warming tribute to our NHS heroes at 8:00pm on 26th March. Collective (safe) acts of kindness like this will be increasingly important over the coming weeks. We want to thank our parent/carer community for their kindness and support, your patience and understanding has enabled the operational running of the school in very challenging circumstances.

Keeping the school open

The team at St John and St James have been phenomenal this week in keeping the school open. The situation at the moment is fast changing with constant updates from various authorities. We remain committed to offering places to qualifying groups (as outlined by the government) over the next week.

You will all have heard the urgent, safety messages by now but for up to date information in regards to how to stay safe during this emergency visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

Our vision is to create an inclusive community of aspirational learners, children, families and colleagues, working collaboratively and respectfully within a happy, nurturing environment where all flourish and achieve.

'I have come that you may have life, life in all its fullness'.

1 John 10 vs 10

Home learning

You may have found this week to be challenging, unusual or even enjoyable as you accessed our home learning provision. We were lucky enough to have introduced [Purple Mash](#) prior to the school closure and hope that the children are making full use of it to communicate by email with their teachers and their friends.

We are operating in challenging times and online learning platforms seem to be a great way of keeping our children motivated, along side home learning, set by class teachers on our website. Some teachers are attending school and supporting home learning so please be patient in regards to how home school contact will work.

The teachers are trying to keep in touch with children by calling a few children each day. As they are often at home, the number will come up as a private number and we understand your reluctance to answer private numbers but they would really like to speak with the children.



Families in receipt of free school meals (FSM)

All our families who are in receipt of FSM were given food hampers this week. We tried to include some store cupboard staples that have been difficult to get hold of lately.

You will be contacted next week in regards to future provision including provision throughout the Easter holidays but if any of our families are suffering financial hardship, please let us know as we may be able to help.

We continue to receive [Felix project deliveries](#), Please let us know if you are coming to collect food and get up to date delivery information.



Can we also remind parents of children of Key workers and other families in identified groups, who are attending school at the moment, you will need to send children with a packed lunch as we are no longer receiving meals from Enfield Catering Service.

Despite lots of texts to parents last week we found that the daily trips to collect lunches proved a challenge and meant that we had a lot of waste.

Easter opening - supporting key workers children and families at Easter

From an operational perspective, we are fully committed to supporting our key workers children and families by opening our school during the Easter Break, safe staff numbers permitting. This Easter provision will only be for the children of emergency key workers and will be on a childcare only basis. There will be no formal teaching schedule during this time. Easter break opening – 6th April to 17th April, excluding Good Friday (10th April) and Easter Monday (13th April).



Community support

We are working as part of the Local authority and will advise our community as soon as possible of vital information that is passed on. I know that many local groups have been formed to help out and our understanding is that one of the best places to visit to find more information is www.loveyourdoorstep.com. They may be able to signpost you to relevant, helpful organisations (please note that this information is given in good faith).

Please be mindful of email and telephone scams exploiting the coronavirus pandemic, some we have heard of include:

Emails asking parents for bank details because they qualify for FSM – **only St John and St James known staff** will contact you and we have no plans in place yet for a voucher system.

Phone calls purporting to be official bodies (such as HMRC, Sky, BT, etc.) asking for bank details.

Citizens Advice (citizensadvice.org.uk) is providing information on how to check if something is a scam. Please do not be exploited by these people during these terribly uncertain times, whilst we are at our most vulnerable.

Enfield Learns together.

“Enfield Learns Together” is a new platform that is being devised by the Local Authority which will provide a range of online activities which will be Enfield specific – further information on this will be available soon.

The Local authority is also looking at providing music lessons online through the music service. Much is possible on online platforms as you know and Enfield will be exploring these over the coming weeks.

There are so many reasons to be thankful and working as a community will help us to keep ourselves and each other safe!

With our best wishes from Patsy Cuncarr and the StJJ Team xxx

