

‘Living, Loving, Learning’

St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School

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To all Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience, kindness and support through these difficult times. I am writing this letter knowing that as the day progresses, there will be further updates so some information may be out of date.

As you are aware, the Government are releasing daily updates relating to the Coronavirus outbreak and as you will have seen yesterday, schools are due to be closed- for the majority of pupils- from this Friday. Exceptions to this are children of ‘Key Workers’ and also some other children who have been identified. Please see the separate letter re this. At the time of writing, we are unsure exactly who these Key Workers are and are awaiting further guidance. The role of teachers and schools in this scenario will be different to what it is now. The Secretary of State has said that “..this is an entirely different role for schools and school staff. It is primarily about care, not education.” Please therefore do not think that your child will be getting a raw deal if they are not here, as schools are being asked to operate in an entirely different way.

Because of the fast moving nature of these press releases, they often raise more questions than answers and at the moment, this is definitely the case. You have questions as parents/carers, staff have questions and so too do the pupils. We do not yet have the answers and we are awaiting clarification from the people above us. As soon as we get this, we will be in touch.

Yesterday, staff were working on letters to go out to the children which direct them towards work which can be done at home. These will be going out asap. If your child does not receive this due to being away from school, we will also place the information on the class pages of the website. We cannot print off materials for all children, as we do not yet know the timescale of the closure and to print enough work for 430 children for an indefinite amount of time would be some task. We have therefore directed you in the first instance to websites which we use, or have been recommended to us. We have provided passwords to some sites the children use in school. Please rest assured that there will also be many online activities due to the current situation. We have also sent out our curriculum maps with what the children have been and are due to study.

There has also been an announcement that pupils who are entitled to free school meals will receive vouchers. Again, we do not yet know how this will work and as soon as we do, we will be in contact.

All assessments for this year have been cancelled, but the hard work of the children will not be lost and we are assured that there will be some way of giving them the grades that they deserve.

In terms of keeping in touch, as a school we will use our text messaging service and also our Twitter account. If you have not yet signed up, please download the Twitter App and follow

'Living, Loving, Learning'

@stelizcps. This is the main school Twitter account. Individual classes also have their own accounts which are @stelizcpn, @stelizcpr, @stelizcp1 etc. We will publish information on the website as quickly as we can, but please bear with us.

For the time being, what I would like to say is that this is a testing time for all of us. As a school, our role does not end at the gates of the yard and we would like to think that we are a vital part of the community. Rest assured that we will be pushing for all the support we can get for our children, and yourselves.

There is a lot of information going around on social media forums, but by far the best I have read is below:

'Arguing with your kids to do work is not what anyone needs right now. Instead, cuddle up together and read, read, read. Take turns reading. Read them your favourite novel (yes, you can read novels to small children). Do a puzzle. Build a fort. Bake. Watch TV together. Paint. Get out the lego and build together. Set up a tent in your living room and camp out. Look at photos of when you were a kid. In other words... Don't stress about them forgetting. Don't stress about homeschooling them. Just spend time together. Your kids won't learn much if they're feeling stressed. Though this is a scary time, it could very well be a time they remember as the best time in their life.'

Please keep safe and we will be in touch with further announcements.

Liam Daniels

Mr L Daniels
Headteacher

