



St Mary's and St John's CE School

"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

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Wisdom Service Hope

Principal: Martin Serrão BA, MEd (Camb)

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Easter Message

I have been reflecting over this week about how our experiences have changed beyond what we could have imagined. Throughout, we have seen wonderful images of people rising to the new challenges and the recognition being given to those who continue to support each other.

Our staff continue to support distance learning and are revising the ways this is approached to increase support for parents and carers. We have issued hampers to our vulnerable families to ensure they are supported over the Easter period. Mr Jarvest from our DT department is busy manufacturing Face Visors which are being donated to our colleagues in the NHS. We have already donated all of our Science and Technology Goggles to the local hospital.

Our Primary and Secondary schools will remain closed to students throughout the Easter period. We will be reviewing this decision as the national picture develops in the coming two weeks. I will be writing to you of any new developments week beginning Monday 20th April.

I would like to share this prayer with you all;

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen*

Primary Update

We are grateful to all families for your efforts in keeping the children learning at home. We know that many of you are juggling home working too. The Primary team are currently putting together a menu of activities for parents to dip into over the Easter holidays as they need to. We hope that these will help your days have a slightly different feel to the last couple of weeks and provide an opportunity to mark Easter in an appropriate way. These will be uploaded to ClassCharts by Monday. We are also contacting those families who haven't yet been able to log on to ClassCharts with details of how to access their child's learning.

Our Primary teachers will be revising their distance learning provision to make things more manageable for parents, especially those with children of different ages. We also hope to incorporate the BBC Bitesize resources that will be available from Monday 20th April.

Secondary Update

At the end of another term we find ourselves in an unfamiliar situation. It is heartening that in spite of the challenging circumstances our SMSJ community has come together to support each other. I hope that the information below proves useful to you over the Easter holiday.

Year 11 Update

OFQUAL released their statement regarding the awarding of GCSE grades today. They have developed a process designed to fairly recognise students' work and make sure they get their grades in time to progress. Please be aware that teachers have received very strict instructions from the Government not to share any information with students or parents/carers at all - the students will find out their results in the summer just as they would have done if they had sat their exams. We thank you for your support in telling your children not to contact their teachers as they cannot respond.

OFQUAL has written [a letter for all Year 11 students](#) which sets out how their grades will be calculated and reassures all students that the grades they get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers and will help them to move forward in their lives as planned.

Passwords

With students spending more time than usual working on-line please remind them of the need to have secure passwords for their school email/classroom accounts. It is good practice to regularly update passwords and nobody should be using their default passwords.

Keeping busy

Although students will not be set to work during the Easter holiday, they can use this time to catch up on missed work or learn a new skill and develop interests they may have. There are a number of exciting activities and courses available at the moment that students, parents, carers and families can enjoy together during the next few weeks. If you missed 'One Man, Two Guvnors' from The [National Theatre](#) last night, I haven't laughed so much in a long time and it is continuing to be broadcast for a week.

Work expectations after Easter

We have not received any further guidance from the government as to how long school closures will continue. Although it is difficult to predict, we are assuming that the current situation may persist for some time to come. We have taken into account your feedback and revised our distance learning provision for after Easter to make it more straightforward to access. The learning for each day will be collated onto one sheet of A4. This will be posted on the Class Charts for each year group, posted on the SMSJ website and emailed to parents/carers on Friday in advance of the coming week. We hope that will help the work to be easier to access and more consistently set.

To support schools the [BBC](#) are offering daily programmes to help parents and children with schoolwork at home during the lockdown. Starting on 20th April, videos, quizzes, podcasts and articles will appear on BBC Bitesize Daily via the BBC iPlayer, red button, BBC Four and BBC Sounds.

Thank you for your continued patience, support and good will at this difficult time.

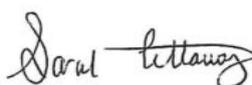
Yours sincerely,



Mr Serrão
Principal



Mr Atkinson
Primary Headteacher



Ms Pittaway
Secondary Headteacher