



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)

5th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. It is a topsy-turvy week with VE day moving the Monday bank holiday to this Friday but at least we have a national celebration to look forward to.

VE Day

When VE Day dawns on 8th May 2020 it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. The 75th anniversary will provide our nation, and our friends around the world, with an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark and terrifying period.

While the many celebrations and gatherings have had to be postponed, we can still commemorate VE Day together by decorating our houses in red white and blue - you can make your own VE Day Great British Bunting by downloading everything you need [here](#).

The timetable for the day itself is as follows:

- 11.00am 2 minutes silence on your doorstep
- 3.00pm Churchill's speech will be broadcast on the BBC
Then grab your picnic blankets and head to your front garden for...
- 4.00pm Tea and scones (or coffee and cake)
- 6.00pm Dinner and raise a glass to your neighbours
- 9.00pm Nationwide sing-a-long to '[We'll meet again](#)' with the Royal British Legion after the Queen's address to the nation on BBC 1.

Distance Learning

While we have followed the weekly pattern of setting distance learning for the whole week, including Friday, as it is a bank holiday there is no expectation on students to complete this work on the day itself - it will be re-set on the following Friday for later submission.

Primary parents please note that the distance learning is being set by the year group teams and may be uploaded by any of the teachers for a year group on behalf of the whole year team. Class teachers will still check any work that is submitted.

Assembly

We miss seeing our students in our weekly assemblies and collective worship. If your children miss this too, this assembly may be a good substitute, broadcast by the Oak Academy on 30th April, with a theme matching one of our SMSJ core values: [hope](#).

Book festivals and events with Penguin

Are you missing attending book festivals and events? Many book festivals and authors are heading [online](#). *At Home With Penguin* broadcasts live from a writer's home, with the author talking about their current reading, what they've been doing in lockdown and answering questions from the audience. So far, authors who have taken part include Marian Keyes, Melissa Hemsley and Caroline Criado Perez - you can catch up

on YouTube [here](#). Forthcoming *At Home With Penguin* events include Anthony Horowitz, Dolly Alderton and Richard Osman.

A three-day virtual book festival, [The Big Book Weekend](#) is co-founded by authors Kit de Waal and Molly Flatt, and supported by the BBC and Arts Council England. It brings together a number of book festivals from across the UK which have had to cancel. Taking place from Friday 8th May to Sunday 10th May, it will include interviews, performances and panel discussions, and all events are free to attend. Authors taking part include Abir Mukherjee talking to Kia Abdullah about social divisions in fiction, Marian Keyes interviewed by Women's Equality Party co-founder Catherine Mayer, and Bernardine Evaristo, who will be in conversation with Mairi Kidd. To register to watch, visit [MyVLF.com](#).

Safeguarding reminder

Should students or parents/carers have any safeguarding concerns during school closure, please email our Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Sarah Pittaway secondaryhead@smsj.london

Simon Atkinson primaryhead@smsj.london

Marcelina Silva msilva@smsj.london

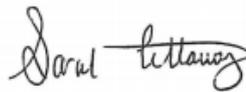
Please note that the school email will be monitored during usual school opening hours only. If a child is at risk of immediate danger, please contact the Barnet MASH team on 020 8359 4066 or the police on 999.

We wish you and your family the very best of health. Please keep us updated if any immediate family member does become ill so that we may offer any support that we can.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Atkinson
Head of Primary



Mrs Pittaway
(Acting) Head of Secondary