



# 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)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we are now in our sixth week of lockdown, we hope that students and parents/carers are all safe and well and continuing to create a sense of routine around school work. We are aware that many of our students are missing school (possibly contrary to their expectations!) and we hope that the WiSH newsletter among other initiatives is helping them to keep in touch.

### **Free School Meals**

The government has announced guidance for the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility (click [here](#) for details and click [here](#) to apply). Should parents/carers require any support with this, please email [office@smsj.london](mailto:office@smsj.london)

### **Live Streaming of Lessons**

A small number of parents and carers have asked about live streaming of video lessons on platforms such as 'Zoom'. This is a complex area which is new for us to navigate as a school and so we thought it would be helpful to explain our rationale for not using live streaming. Our staff are really keen to keep in touch with the children they teach and so a couple of year groups tried using 'Zoom' to connect and share games and quizzes.

However, unfortunately we cannot use 'Zoom' as it is not secure and so it poses a safeguarding risk. There are many issues to consider when it comes to live streaming and paramount in these is the issue of safeguarding and child protection.

Due to safeguarding concerns, some teaching professional associations have been very clear that their members should not engage in live lessons at all. We also have many teachers who have to supervise their young children at home during the day during the school closure period, or who are caring for elderly relatives. They are therefore monitoring children's work, planning and uploading their lessons early in the morning or late in the evening. These staff would not be able to live stream lessons. In addition to these restrictions, London being an expensive place to live, some of our teachers rent rooms in a house share, which makes it difficult to live stream, especially from a safeguarding perspective.

We are using Google video conferencing to keep our teaching and support teams connected during school closure. Some of our Heads of Year in secondary are introducing once a week Google stream 'meetings' where the students in that year group can talk to each other and their PAMs. Riddles and 'Dingbats' have been exchanged and there is talk of a 'bake off' competition. We will see how well that provision works in the year groups who are using it and if it is successful we may use it more widely. Our staff are of course using the vast network of online learning platforms already in place to set work for the children. We hope this fully explains and clarifies the school's position on live streaming of lessons.

### **Big Picnic for Hope**

The [Big Picnic for Hope](#) is an opportunity for your household to be part of a virtual get together, to help honour heroes past and present.

Neale House Campus, Prothero Gardens, Hendon, NW4 3SL  
Bennett House Campus, Sunningfields Road, Hendon, NW4 4QR  
Stamford Raffles Campus, Downage, Hendon, NW4 1AB



Many of us would have been commemorating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Families and friends would have been gathering for street parties and celebrations around the UK, but such gatherings are no longer possible.

However, even in the current lockdown we can still come together to recognise this date through the 'Big Picnic for Hope'. The idea is for each household to have a picnic and send in photos of the picnic to be shared worldwide.

People can also share their ideas for the Big Picnic for Hope, what to bake, what to make, and their own creative ideas online using the hashtags #bigpicnicforhope and #feed5000, to help inspire others to get involved.

### **SMSJ Facebook/Twitter**

If you have not already 'liked' SMSJ on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) please do so as these platforms are where we share our most up-to-date information and lovely work from our students.

### **Faith at Home**

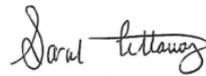
A lovely [thank you](#) to all parents, carers and families from the Church of England.

Our thanks too to you all for stepping in to the teacher role where required with remote learning and for supporting school staff throughout these challenging times.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Atkinson  
Head of Primary



Mrs. Pittaway  
(Acting) Head of Secondary