



BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ST JOHN RIGBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

God's will be done through work and play as we follow Jesus day by day

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Headteacher: Mrs M McGettigan BEd (Hons)

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, the government has announced blanket closures of all UK schools for the majority of pupils. Below you will find important information regarding how we will communicate with you, what work has been set for pupils over the next weeks leading up to the Easter holidays and how we can provide support where needed. **Please keep this letter somewhere safe so that you can refer back to it!**

Communication

All general correspondence from school will be sent via **MyChildAtSchool** and email. Information will also be available on the school website and via social media, where appropriate. We will endeavour to keep you informed of every step taken, in line with the government guidelines.

We have set up several forms of communication should you wish to get in touch with the school whilst we are closed:

- **Class Teacher Communication:** general communication about school work set or for advice from the class teacher can be made via ClassDojo. Please could I ask that this communication is limited to the hours between 09.00am to 3.00pm. Teachers will be regularly checking throughout the day. Whilst teachers will endeavour to respond as soon as possible, please could I ask for your patience. We will do our very best to balance supporting our school community as well as ourselves and our families.
- **SEND Communication:** Families who regularly have contact with Mrs Jepps regarding support for their child(ren)'s learning can continue to communicate with Mrs Jepps via ClassDojo or email on ijepps@stjohnrigby.org
- **General Communication/Enquiries:** the school office will be manned between the hours of 09.30am and 2.30pm. Should you have any general queries or questions, please email admin@stjohnrigby.org. Emails will be checked daily and we will ensure that the relevant person responds to you as soon as they can. Please could we ask that you do not use the email service for anything other than general queries or advice.
- **Leadership Communication:** should you have a concern or query that requires leadership support, or if you are unable to make contact with a teacher, we are setting up a mobile network. These numbers will be posted on the school website over the next couple of days.
- **Safeguarding & Wellbeing:** If you or your child have any worries or concerns outside of school during the periods of closure we can provide advice or direct you to other who can help. Please email the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs Greaves) at agreaves@stjohnrigby.org. Family Support advice can be sought through our Family Support Worker (Mrs McLoughlin) on **07802 780976**.

For urgent support for safeguarding or if you are worried about a child please call The Integrated Front Door (previously MASH) on 01234 718700 (office hours) or 0300 3008123 (out of hours).

Home Learning

In preparation for closure, teachers have been planning work to be completed at home. Much of this is paper based and has been sent home with your child. Teachers will also continue to set home learning using our existing technology system that the children use for their weekly homework. We will also expect pupils to keep up daily reading and all pupils have been issued new reading books to take home.

For all online learning, class teachers will ensure that your child has all of the relevant passwords in their reading records/planners, and that every child has their diary when they leave school.

Because your children are used to accessing these programmes on a weekly basis, unless they are ill, we do expect that they complete the work set. In this initial phase, the teachers will set work for the final two weeks of term, and we have signposted you to many extra activities, which you can complete in addition, should you wish to do so.

1. **MyMaths** – Work will be set linked to the next topics in our scheme of work. Please remind your child that each homework activity is linked to a set of lessons, so that if they need help, they can access it independently. If you would like to extend your child's learning, they can access any other lessons once they have logged in.
2. **Times Table Rockstars** – This can be accessed anytime. The teachers will set the relevant times tables for your child to practise.
3. **Spelling Shed** – Spellings will be set for the coming two weeks. Spellings challenges should be accessed daily. We would also encourage children to regularly practise general spellings to secure confidence and instant recall.
4. **Espresso** – This is an all-in-one learning service offers a wide range of subjects mapped to the curriculum, ensuring that your school will deliver high quality education and appropriate coverage with thoughtfully structured content to meet the requirements of the new 2019 Ofsted Inspection Framework.
For access you will need to go to the website: www.discoveryeducation.co.uk
Click on "login" and select "Espresso"
Enter your username: student4296
Enter your password: rigby123
5. **BugClub (KS1 & Y3) - an online reading platform for reading comprehension and inference**

Class Teachers will regularly review and update the online platforms to assess pupils progress and review learning.

Should your child(ren) complete all work set or require extra challenge there are several online educational publishers that are offering parents/carers free access to all resources in order to support continued learning at home. Below is a list of some sites (please also continue to look at our school website where more resources will be added)

- **Twinkl:** Parents/Carers will need to register and enter UKTWINKLHELPS to get started You should be able to access free Home Learning Packs for each primary year group. Each pack contains resources to help with distance learning:
 - EYFS <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/l/xrh0w>
 - KS1 <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/l/qznc0>
 - KS2 <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/l/1bm381>
- **Classroom Secrets** covers subjects such as maths, reading, grammar and spelling. There are lots of interactive resources and activities
- For kids who love science, the [Children's University of Manchester](http://www.childrens.unimanchester.ac.uk) website is an excellent interactive resource in which your child can browse a number of different science topics, which have a quiz at the end of each unit.

- [BBC Bitesize](#) is an excellent online resource that provides students help with revision and learning. Here you will find a number of free videos, step-by-step guides, activities and quizzes by level and subject on every subject for students aged from three to 16 and over.
- For those of you who enjoy making crafts with your child at home, [Activity Village](#) is a great resource for ideas and templates to develop creativity at home.
- Go for some virtual tours around some museums in different parts of the world <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>
- National Geographic Kids (<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>) provides online games, resources and competitions covering a wide range of subjects including History, Geography, Art & Design and PSHE
- Picture News <https://www.picture-news.co.uk> Each week topical news and current affairs are explored through imagery and a thought-provoking question with a variety of teaching resources.

Finally, we are very grateful to you all for the love and support that you have shown to us. We are extremely lucky to be part of such a fantastic community. We find ourselves in an unprecedented and rather unbelievable situation – each school has to follow their own procedures, and I would like to thank you all for your patience and support during this time. Please know that we will continue to work hard to support your children and that we will keep you up to date with government information as we receive it.

I would also like to thank you as parents in advance of what you need to do – your roles are also going to change. Whilst we have tried to keep calm around school, it is only natural that our children are just as worried as we are. They not only hear everything that is going on around them but they feel our tension and anxieties. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off school for some time sounds amazing, they are probably picturing a fun- time like the summer holidays, not the reality of being home all day with limited contact with friends. This situation may even change further.

Over the coming weeks, you may see an increase in behaviour – anxiety, anger, protest when they can not do things they normally do. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What our children will need right now is for you to make them feel loved and secure. That might mean that you may need to change routines and spend more time as a family. Play outside and go on walks whilst you can. Bake cakes and paint pictures, play board games. Spend time exploring the home learning together and enjoying each other's company.

Do not worry too much about the academic progress. We are all in this together and when we return to school, along with yourselves, we will make a concerted effort to bridge the gaps and move forward. At this time, yours and your child's health and wellbeing is more important.

I would like to finish with a prayer for our whole school community:

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support us, protect us, guard us and watch over us, lifting up all who are brought low, that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.
Amen.*

Please look after yourselves, your families and your neighbours
God Bless

Mrs Michele McGettigan
Headteacher
and the Senior Leadership Team