

Westminster Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Founded by The Jesuit Fathers Circa 1849



Newsletter

Monday 23rd March 2020

'Love one another as I have loved you'

John 13:34

Dear parents and friends,

Many blessings to you all on these strange and unpredictable times. It is a challenging time for all of us, particularly our children. Many of them will not understand why the school is closed and why our lives have to change. Even though we may not have the answers to many of the questions and even though we may not physically be together for some time, it is important to remember we are all part of the strong, caring community of Westminster Cathedral Primary School.

As you are aware the school is to remain closed to all apart from key workers or vulnerable children who have NO OTHER childcare provision. The message from the Government is very clear—pupils are to stay at home unless completely necessary.

Your children have been given home learning work for the next two weeks (this is also available on the school website). We are currently arranging for the teachers to email you directly. We are anticipating to use this platform from the first week of the Summer Term, w/b 20th April 2020 to issue your child's weekly home learning work. We are hoping for the teachers to be able to email you directly before then—we will keep you informed. Meanwhile, **if you need to contact the school for any reason—please do so through emailing the school: office@westcathsch.co.uk or ringing the school between 8.30am and 4.30pm on 020 71860155. We are accessing the school email address and the school telephone daily.**

It is our duty to ensure we are following all Government guidelines and the one that we should all follow is—stay at home! For us as parents it is important we know where our children are at all times. We are being asked to maintain the 'social distancing' guidelines and to reduce social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). For more information please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

We aim to keep in touch with you through the newsletter, on the school website, emails and texts—please keep in touch with us by reading all the information we send.

Praying for you and your families—Mrs Stacey

A beautiful message from Pope Francis providing words of comfort and hope in this difficult time:

Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street.

When we can hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party.

Let's think about when the coffee will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other.

We think about when it will be all a memory but normalcy will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift.

We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us,.

Every second will be precious. Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter.

We will go back to laughing together. Strength and courage. See you soon!

Free School Meals.

If your child receives a free school meal, we are finalising the voucher system allowing you to use the food vouchers in a range of supermarkets. The school office will be in touch with you as soon as we have more information.

If you do not hear from the school office and your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 you are not registered as a free school meal however **we are here to help.** **If you feel you need the same support as being offered to those who have free school meals, please contact the school office. We are here for you.**



Please remember your child has access to www.discoveryeducation.co.uk

Your child should know the user login and the password. If they are unsure please contact the school directly for this information.

The resources on here are wonderful. As a parent who is also 'home-schooling' my children I will make lots of use of this website.

The department for education are issuing a number of guidelines which may help answer some questions you may have. Please see:

The Government and the DFE have issued a number of guidelines:

Guidance: Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers: Updated 20 March 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Guidance: Guidance for schools about temporarily closing: Published 22 March 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>

Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on vulnerable children and young people: Published 22 March 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

Guidance: COVID-19: free school meals guidance for schools:: Updated 20 March 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>



At this time when our children are at home more they are likely to be spending more time on screens. Please follow all guidance as to how you can keep your child safe online.

Here is some information from the NSPCC that can guide you.

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/

Starting a conversation about online safety.

It can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online or who they might be speaking to. But talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

It can help to:

- reassure them that you're interested in their life, offline and online. Recognise that they'll be using the internet to research homework as well talking to their friends.
- ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online or apps they're using so you can understand them.
- be positive but also open about anything you're worried about. You could say "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here."
- ask them if they're worried about anything, and let them know they can come to you.
- ask them about their friends online and how they know they are who they say they are.
- listen for the reasons why your child wants to use apps or site you don't think are suitable, so you can talk about these together.
- ask your child what they think's okay for children of different ages so they feel involved in the decision making.