

Dear Parents of Reception children

I am very disappointed that Boris Johnson did not have more optimistic news last night as I am sure many of you were too. Schools will only be open for children of key workers, vulnerable children and those with EHCPs. I have been in touch with a large number of families to organise school places for *critical* key workers and Mrs Roper has also been in regular contact with those with special needs.

For those children coming to school tomorrow (or another allocated day), please wear full school uniform and a pair of trainers. PE day will be Fridays so please wear your PE kit that day (if in school that day). Also please bring your water bottles and fully stocked pencil cases (if you took yours home at the end of last term). Those who have a school dinner, please make sure you have booked the lunch on SchoolGrid, everyone else, don't forget your packed lunch. Drop off and pick up times are the same, 8:55am RG and 9:05am RY from their side gate. Pick up from the main gate at the front of school at your usual home time (we are not using the gate via the parish centre for the time being).

For those children who are at home tomorrow, please join the zoom chat at 9am but every day after that at 9.15am. You can find the link for this on Tapestry as well as any work set by the teachers. All instructions will be given at the zoom chat.

I am aware from the survey I did last term that there are a large number of families sharing devices. We will therefore record the live session and put it onto Tapestry for you to access when convenient.

We applied to the DfE for funding for devices and were lucky enough to receive four for the entire school!!! These have been allocated to eligible children but unfortunately there weren't enough to go around. If you have any spare devices at home that you do not need, including old mobile phones, iPads, laptops etc please would you consider donating them to families who need them at this time. You can email office@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk with any donations or requests.

If you need data to use the internet we have some free data sim cards (with 30GB to use for 90 days) which we can allocate to families in need. Please email Catherine at office@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk to request this.

The teachers have been familiarising themselves with online learning (and now I'm afraid parents will have to as well). We were lucky enough not to have to close the Reception bubbles last term, so please be patient with us and yourselves whilst we all learn to use this technology to the best of our abilities.

We would like the children to do their work in an exercise book which they will bring back to school when school reopens fully. If you do not have one, you can come to school to collect one.

I recognise that the anxiety and stress levels of all parents and staff are huge at the moment. Please do keep in touch with me with any worries or concerns and together I hope we can support one another to get through this difficult period. Don't forget I have three children of my own and am trying to work full-time! I won't be getting "mother/teacher of the year" award any time soon! My email address is headteacher@st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Epiphany and so at school we will all be watching Mass live from St Monica's at 9.30am. To join click this link <https://www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen>

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste