

Dear Parents of Years 1 - 6

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, however please only use the main gate at the front of school (not the parish centre one).

For those children who are at home tomorrow, please join Google Classroom at 9am but every day after that at 9.15am. You will need to find a device that can log in to Google Classroom to do this. 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 onto Google Classroom for you to access when convenient. Perhaps the children could take it in turns throughout the week to meet their teachers at this time.

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.

Most of the teachers are not familiar with Google Classroom (and nor are the parents) as we were lucky enough not to have to close many 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 all 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.

If you want to ask your child's teacher a question, please watch this link about how to do it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR0OZOELisZlcwFC5BBnNF6EIBMYzPJzNleXeCNpBu65XSUARFdKh0fJAK&v=XcNNPZ9TNKY&feature=youtu.be>

I recognise that the anxiety and stress levels of all staff and parents are huge at the moment. Staff are concerned about the risk they will be under with this new more contagious strain of Covid while they work in school and how they will manage online learning for their class and some with their own children at home. Working parents are losing sleep over how they will manage (myself included). 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. 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