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Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write this newsletter with a sense of incredulousness that so much has happened so fast. It is a sad day for us all and I have been walking around school trying to keep teacher's spirits up as they are also in a state of upset and disbelief.

I want to reassure you that all we do and always will do is have the children's best interests at heart and to that end the safest place for your children right now is with you in your home.

Of course we will still be open for some children as their parents are on the critical worker list and do not have alternative child care arrangements. To that end if your circumstances do change and you are on the critical worker list, please email the school and let us know how we can help you.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Teachers have been working hard to upload virtual class work for your child to complete. All the children should have a log in for Google classroom and every week there will be a new set of tasks to complete. There are lots of learning web sites linked to the learning packs so please explore. Children that are attending school will also access the learning packs so that there will be parity of learning throughout the time we are closed. Please email the school if your child does not have or can't remember their log in.

House Keeping **Church news**

We are live streaming Mass every day at midday at www.josephfrancis.org/livestream
Our church remains open at any time for people to come in and pray. There is a combination lock on the door from the porch into the church. People can email me for the code.



"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."



We are offering a Zoom meeting for parents who want to share ideas and support for their children and their faith at this time on Monday at 10am at <https://zoom.us/j/820362496>

We are coordinating support for people who are vulnerable at this time, helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions or offering phone support. If you would like to help with this or would like some support yourself, please let us know.

Together with other Christians in this country, we have been invited to take part in a national day of prayer and action this coming Sunday, 22 March. At 7pm this Sunday, we are invited to light a candle in the windows of our homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer. Alongside your prayers, you can take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

Father Tom

Oh So Kel

Will try and help during this difficult time keeping children engaged and adults inspired at home.

I'll be sharing free live online kids' crafts sessions using everyday items and for adults I will share room tours of my home giving interior tips along the way, including the DIY & craft projects in each space.

To get the links & programme when it's ready I'm collecting email addresses here: <https://bit.ly/2UixWtT>

Mrs Harmer

French Club

I will be doing weekly online French lessons (via zoom video platform) through the time that the schools are closed. If any parents are interested in this, they can find details either by emailing me at admin@clubs4kids.com or on www.facebook.com/clubs4kids

Anna Kate

News from the Diocese of Clifton

We will be running a competition every fortnight. There will be 3 age groups, below 8, 8 to 12 and 12 and above. There will be a small prize for each group and winning entries will be published on line. Each competition will reflect a different skill.

Our first competition will be our version of 500 words. Pupils are invited to submit a short story on the theme of 'Hope'. All entries should be submitted to ann.fowler@cliftondiocese.com by Friday 3rd of April.

PE on You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TGEdzRzSbw>

The children know all about Joe Wicks!

If you have any queries over the next week please e mail the office rather than phone as it might be easier to field your enquiry this way.

I truly hope that we will be able to all meet again before the end of the school year and I want to thank you for your continued support as we manage this unprecedented situation.



Please remember that in the event that your child or member of the family begin to show symptoms of the Coronavirus/COVID-19, you should immediately self-isolate in accordance with the government's guidelines. Please stay safe and look after one another.

*In this time of trouble, give me a steadfast mind and fill me with peace as I put my trust in you.
With you I will not crumble like a house built on sand but I will stand firm with my feet on you, the
everlasting rock.*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

God Bless

Mrs Jackson