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## **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are coming to the end of a very different Easter holiday; the school term starts again on Monday but once again it's very different than what we are all used to. I hope you managed to have some fun times over the Easter break. Many parents have been telling me that they have spent more time with their children than normal, and it has been surprisingly beneficial for all concerned. The most important thing is that you and your family remain safe and well during these difficult times.

Teachers have been busy preparing online lessons again so please set some time aside each day for your child to work through the lessons. If you are having difficulties logging on or have forgot your password you can e mail Mr Bath and he will help you out.  
[greg.bath@stjoes.org.uk](mailto:greg.bath@stjoes.org.uk)

## **Church news**

At this time of suffering and uncertainty, we thought it would be an ideal opportunity to offer a short course on hope. This beautiful four session course consists of short (about 23 minutes) videos and a short time of sharing together our thoughts and reflections on these (about 30-40 minutes). We'll send you a link so that you can watch the videos in your own time and then run the group discussion times on Zoom. The course starts next week and you can sign up to participate at :-  
[josephfrancis.org/courses](http://josephfrancis.org/courses)

We will be offering some further opportunities for courses/virtual small groups shortly.

We continue to offer a daily assembly/prayer time for primary age children at 9.40 on weekdays and Childrens Liturgy at 10.30 on Sundays.

Do contact me for the zoom link if you'd like to join us.

[frtom@josephfrancis.org.uk](mailto:frtom@josephfrancis.org.uk)



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



Our Youth Alpha group for teenagers launched on Tuesday and was really successful, with 27 of our young people taking part in the first session. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. We are imminently launching a group for years 6 to 8. Please let me know if you would like details. We are live streaming Mass every day at midday at [www.josephfrancis.org/livestream](http://www.josephfrancis.org/livestream)

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.

God Bless  
Father Tom

## **Safeguarding**

### **Scams during the COVID-19 pandemic**

ActionFraud reported a 400% increase in reports of coronavirus related fraud in March 2020. These cyber attacks are using Covid-19 to lure people in to clicking links or opening attachments.

At a time when many of us are working in different ways, it is essential to employ your usual approach to emails, and not rush into clicking or replying – these attacks are designed to trick you.

Some of the most recent scams to be aware of are:

#### **Support for free school meals**

Parents receiving an email stating 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'. Parents are being urged to not respond and to delete this email.

*Source: Education and Skills Funding Agency*

#### **Phishing emails with malicious attachments**

COVID-19 phishing emails that have malicious Word documents or other attachments containing embedded computer viruses. For example, one email pretends to originate from the World Health Organisation and invites the recipient to open an attachment for advice on safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Another phishing email pretends to be international health sector organisation. The email invites the recipient to click on the link to access information about new cases of the COVID-19 virus in their local area.

*Source: Australian Cyber-Security Centre*

#### **SMS Phishing**

It has been reported that fake COVID-19 websites are being registered, with text messages appearing to be from the Government then being sent to the public, urging them to click on the link. The websites have been found to contain Trojan software that is designed to steal people's financial information.

*Source: Australian Cyber Security Centre*

#### **Fake NHS donations email**

ActionFraud have received 41 reports of a scam email purporting to be from HM Government, asking for donations to the NHS during the COVID-19 outbreak.

*Source: Action Fraud*

#### **Tips on spotting phishing emails**

- Poor grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Addressed to 'valued customer', 'friend', or 'colleague'.
- A veiled threat that asks you to act urgently.
- Does the sender's name sound legitimate, or is it trying to mimic someone you know?
- Does it sounds too good to be true?
- Asking for personal information from an email.

For official information about coronavirus, please refer to trusted resources such as the [Public Health England](https://www.nhs.uk) or NHS websites.

#### **What should you do?**

If you think an email is suspicious, follow these steps:

- Don't open any attachments or click on any links
  - Beware - The address may look genuine, but have some slight differences



### **School web site**

Please keep an eye on the school web site there will be regular Government updates that you will be sign posted to. There are also extra resources for home schooling and prayer under parents/covid 19.

### **Children's e book about Coronavirus**

Please see the link below it's an easy book for children to understand written and illustrated by some well-known children's authors.

[https://issuu.com/nosycrow/docs/coronavirus\\_ins/1?ff&hideShareButton=true](https://issuu.com/nosycrow/docs/coronavirus_ins/1?ff&hideShareButton=true)

### **Hospital admissions**

Due to the coronavirus there has been an alarming drop in visits to accident and emergency please see the link below to urge you not to delay visiting these departments if you suspect something is urgently wrong with someone in your household being particularly vigilant where children are concerned.

<https://bnssgccg.nhs.uk/news/do-your-bit-nhs-and-save-lives-using-right-services/>

### **Welcome to new parents**

Parents received their information yesterday with regards their Reception place for September 2020. We look forward to welcoming your family to our St Joseph's family. Miss Johnson (our reception teacher) will be in touch shortly to outline how you can be part of our family during this unusual time.

### **Keeping in touch**

Over the coming weeks we will be looking for ways to be in touch with you and your child on a more personal level. In the meantime, please follow the link below which Mrs Reeson has kindly put together. Thank you to all who participated I can promise you all that we loved watching it and it brought a tear to my eye.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DK28TvybapKEMs-dCSWA6UzGyzOc3Ngr/view?usp=drivesdk>

If you have any queries over the next week please e mail the office rather than phone as your message may not be picked up.

Thank you again for all your support during this difficult time. We all miss each other but we know the best and safest place for our children right now is at home with their family.  
Please stay safe and look after one another.

God Bless

Mrs Jackson

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

*John 14-27*

