



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Week beginning Monday November 9th 2020

Thought for the week:
“We will remember them”

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back. A warm welcome back to everyone to the second part of the autumn term. The lead up to Christmas this year is sadly going to have to be different. Our traditional Nativities, carol services and concerts are all going to have to be put on hold for the time being. Whatever we can plan and are able to do, we will communicate through these letters and the school website.

Our new Gospel virtues for the half term ahead are “Intentional and Prophetic”. Thanks to Mr Barton for his virtual assembly helping us to recognise we should do “something good for someone else”.

Remembrance Sunday. This Sunday (8th) is Remembrance Sunday, a day when we pause, reflect and consider the sacrifice that so many have made across a number of different conflicts for our country. The lockdown means that public acts of remembrance will have to be different this year however, it is still important to mark the day in whatever way we can. We will indeed remember them.

First Holy Communion 2020. Sadly, we have had to reschedule the remaining three groups of Y4 children that were due to make their First Holy Communion in November. When these can take place is still very much unknown and will depend on how things are looking on December 2nd. When the lockdown “expires”, in December we will all have a better idea as to what we are facing and in the case of Holy Communion, whether or not they can happen before Christmas or later in the year. I will write to those concerned as soon as I know more.

Coronavirus. You will no doubt know that we have all now entered a period of national lockdown. From school’s point of view nothing however has much changed, we remain open and will stay open until otherwise directed. One of the big differences between the current lockdown and the previous one is that schools and all places of education are to remain open.

If we need to close a year group, we will follow the procedures we used for Y2 before half term. My sincere wish is that we don’t have to send any “bubbles” home before Christmas. To enable us to have the best chance to do that we can all play our parts by following the rules that everyone is now familiar with. If your child presents with any of the symptoms of Coronavirus **PLEASE**



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DO NOT SEND THEM INTO SCHOOL. Please keep them at home and request a test. Indeed if your child is poorly in any way please urge on the side of caution and keep them at home until they are feeling better. If you are or have requested a Coronavirus test please let school know the result as soon as possible. A reminder also that it is important to maintain social distancing when collecting your child, please don't linger and please don't come up to the school office unless it is essential for you to do so. I am acutely aware that these are not the normal kind of requests that a Head teacher makes, but if we want to keep all our year groups in school, we all need to do our bit and follow the rules. I really appreciate all your help and support with these matters.

Nursery 2020-2021. Our youngest children have started school and moved into their revamped Nursery. Over half term, a large canopy was erected outside the Nursery enabling the children to use the outside space whatever the weather. I am indebted to Mr Wood for overseeing the work that took place over half term. Congratulations to all the Nursery children on completing their first week at school and many thanks to Ms Crowton, Ms Rowley and Ms Farmer for settling the children in so well.

Car Park. I have asked a significant proportion of the staff to now park up at school and on the rear playground. This should hopefully free up some space on the car park and ease some congestion. Before half term, we had a couple of near misses and I was coconscious that as the nights draw in the more space we can create then the better it should be for pedestrians and motorists alike. Please do use the car park safely and do please park considerately. The work on the park continues a pace and the temporary fencing is being removed. The pathways in the park are the safest route into and out of school. If anyone however does have any issues or problems with parked vehicles please do let me know and I can pass your concerns on to the local PCSO.

"Maths No Problem". A couple of our teacher days earlier this week centred on a new way school is going to approach the teaching of Maths. The staff undertook significant training with the idea being to roll out this new program shortly. At our recent Ofsted inspection the inspector commented favourably as to our plans and despite everything else we are all trying to manage and cope with I am delighted we are now in a position to to being working with "Maths no problem" in earnest. The school has invested heavily in the programme and I want to thank Mr Mulligan for all his hard work in driving this initiative forward across school. I have asked him to write to you all shortly outlining how the new programme works and the differences you may see.

St Margaret Marys Church. Very sadly, no public services can take place due to the lockdown. The church however will be open at certain times for private prayer only. Please look at the church website (there is a link from the homepage of the school website) for how this is being organised and what the times the church is open are. The lockdown is due to end just as Advent begins so hopefully things will be different by then.

Half term dates. School will break up for the Christmas holiday at ***1:00pm on Friday December 18th. The children return to school on Monday January 4th 2021.***

Please Pray for: The St Margaret Mary Family that we all stay safe in these challenging times. Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

M Aldred. Head teacher.



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