



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Week beginning Monday November 16th 2020

Thought for the week:
"We will remember them"

Dear Parents,

Armistice Day. On Wednesday, school marked the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month by a period of silent reflection across school. In times that are more normal, we would have gathered for an assembly this week and reflected on the sacrifice of all those people who gave their lives so that we may be free. "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

Coronavirus. I wrote on our return after half term of my sincere wish that no other year groups would need to self-isolate in the run up to Christmas. Sadly after only two weeks that has not proved possible. On Wednesday school received news of a positive test result in Y4, this unfortunately now means that school has had to close the bubble that is Y4. Regrettably, this means that 52 children and 5 members of staff need to self-isolate up to Tuesday November 24th. For everyone else school remains open as normal for all other year groups, and siblings of children in Y4. An additional change this week is also the cancellation of all after school clubs. School received guidance stating that as the country has entered a period of national restrictions then wherever possible face-to-face contact should be minimised. As a result, clubs will need to stop until we move out of the national restrictions, as and when we can restart them, I will write and let everyone know. I apologise for the late notice for this week but school only received the new guidelines very recently, as and when things change, I will communicate with everyone as soon as possible.

Many thanks to all the Y4 families for their support with self-isolating; again I am acutely aware it was short notice that your child/children had to stay at home so thanks to all concerned. Work for Y4 can be accessed via the year group Twitter feed, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 24th.

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.**



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A checklist/reminder of What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Maths No Problem. Thanks to Mr Mulligan for all he has done in leading school on our journey towards "Maths no problem". He wrote to everyone this week and I would urge you if you have a spare moment to have a look at the recommended video clip.

St Margaret Marys Church. During this period of national restrictions, no church services can take place. Please however note that the church is open for private prayer on the following days at h relevant times:

"Church will be open at these times for individual prayer, which will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and Confessions: Sunday 9am- 11.30am Monday 6pm-7pm Tuesday 8.45am-9.45am Wednesday 8.45am -9.45am Friday 8.45am – 9.45am Saturday 6pm – 7pm"

Anti-Bullying Week. Next week school will mark Anti Bullying Week. Unfortunately, we won't be able to recognise in the way we would normally do however, the key messages surrounding the week will be explored in individual classes. School will be emphasising the fact that we are a "telling school". If we are worried, anxious, upset, concerned or troubled in any way then we should TELL SOMEONE. School has many trusted adults and numerous ways in which it can help, support and find solutions to whatever the issue may be. After all a "trouble shared is a trouble halved".

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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