



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM  
**ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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### **Week beginning Monday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2020**

#### **Thought for the week: "Stay Awake Be Ready!"**

Dear Parents,

**ADVENT 2020.** This weekend marks the second Sunday of Advent when we will light the second candle on our Advent wreath. Whilst the first candle represented "hope", the second purple candle symbolises "faith" or "love". It is also sometimes called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The ongoing situation everyone is struggling with has proved very difficult on lots of different levels and in lots of different ways.

The Advent wreath provides us all with a reminder, a focus, for our faith and hope for the future.

**FSM Christmas Holiday Vouchers 2020.** I received notification from the local authority earlier this week that for those eligible, free school meal vouchers will be issued for the two weeks school is closed over the Christmas break. For those families that received vouchers during the summer holiday you will remember that the company responsible for issuing the vouchers was Edenred. My understanding is that the process will be similar to what occurred over the summer. As soon as school knows for definite, all the information families need will be sent out to enable you to redeem the vouchers. Without trying to second-guess anything, I suspect it will be towards the end of next week before we know for sure how the process will work. School will communicate the information to those concerned as soon as it can. My thanks in advance to Mr Connaughton and Mrs Coney for all they have already done in preparation for the distribution of the vouchers. Logistically it is a very challenging exercise and I am indebted to both for their hard work and patience.

**Christmas 2020.** Over many years now the staff and myself, have been very fortunate to receive many lovely Christmas presents from the children and their families. Can I ask that this year instead of sending in a present you think about donating something to our Christmas foodbank. There are many families that are really struggling as result of the pandemic and any help we can give would, I know, be gratefully received. One tin or packet of food from everyone would mean 400 things to eat for those in our area most in need over the Christmas. Mrs Logue will be writing to everyone with details of our Christmas foodbank collection shortly. Christmas 2020 is going to be different for all of us and for many it is going to prove a particularly challenging time. If we



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can donate an item of food this Christmas in particular, it would in a small way really help those in Erdington/Kingstanding that need help. Thank you in advance for your support for our foodbank.

**Sacramental programme 2021.** For the remaining Y4 children yet to make their First Holy Communion this will now take place next term. The date cannot yet be confirmed, as it will depend on other issues beyond our control. Similarly Y3 making their First Confession will also take place next term and as soon as I can I will let everyone know the new dates. Thank you to all those affected by recent events, your patience and understanding with all that is going on is much appreciated. I hope that 2021 will bring us all more certainty.

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

### **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)

**Reception 2021-2022.** For all families with school age children in September please see the below. In particular, current Nursery families **MUST FILL** in a supplementary information form if they wish their child to attend St Margaret Marys. Please contact the school office for further details. *"Parents to visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) and submit an online application by 15 January 2021 (the final closing date). We would strongly recommend that you ensure you read the 'Primary School Admissions Criteria 2021 Information' prior to submitting your application. Online applications will receive an immediate email confirmation when the application is submitted. Those online applicants who have not provided an email address will not receive an acknowledgement so it is very important that you include an email address. If you have not received an acknowledgement by 15 January 2021, then you should call Children's*



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*Services on 0121 303 1888 to confirm that your application has been received. Online applicants that submit their application with a valid email address will be sent an offer by email on 16 April 2021. Parents/carers that submitted an online application without a valid email address will be sent an offer letter by first class post which should arrive from 16 April 2021 and should be delivered by the end of that week”*

**St Margaret Marys Church.** I have attached with this letter the times the church will now be open as the national restrictions are lifted.

**Please pray for:** Please pray for the St Margaret Mary family.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

M Aldred. Head teacher.



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