



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
ST. MARGARET MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Week beginning Monday March 15th 2021

Thought for the week:

“We can never know all the good a simple smile can do.”

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back. Our first week is now complete as we emerge from the restrictions we have all been living under. The children have settled well back into school and I have to say that once more seeing and hearing all the children back at school has been a joy. It is hard to explain how sad school has seemed in recent times. Having everyone back certainly lifts the spirits and lightens the mood. School is so important on so many different levels for so many different people. When suddenly school, cannot open for everyone it really does bring home how crucial it is for young and old alike. My sincere wish now is that we will have no more disruptions between now and July. There is continued talk and discussion about how schools are going to help the children “catch up”, with financial, structural and strategic changes seemingly in the pipeline. However, what is more important for now is that we are back at school, back learning and back playing with our friends.

Coronavirus. The national data is much more promising with everything seeming to point to a brighter time ahead. I thank everyone for their continued support with social distancing, good respiratory hygiene and hand washing. What is apparent is that what will happen to case numbers now that schools are open is somewhat of an unknown. Cases will undoubtedly rise, but by how much we will need to wait and see. One of the main problems with the virus is that it easily spreads through social interaction and that it is the interaction between adults at the school gate, on the bus or on the journey to work that can seemingly cause problems. Hence, the school's decision to stagger departure times at the end of the day. The idea is that parents will firstly not all arrive at the same time and secondly depart at different times thus reducing social contact. I ask for everyone's patience with this model for a couple of weeks to enable us to iron out any teething issues that may arise with siblings leaving their younger brothers and sisters for example. Arrival in the morning is already staggered from 8:30 onwards and hopefully as we move forward staggering our home time routines will get easier for everyone. Indeed the ultimate goal is that we will be able to revert to normal home time routines soon. Thank you to everyone for trying to support school with this initiative.



SCHOOL MEMBER



Bronze



FSM Vouchers. 90% of the latest vouchers (up to and including March 5th) have now been redeemed. The vouchers expire in 13 days time so please check you have redeemed them as once they have expired families won't be able to use them. Please call school if you think this may apply to you and Mrs Coney will help you through the process. Information about the FSM vouchers for the upcoming Easter holiday will be coming home soon.

Summer Term Teacher Days. School will be closed for all pupils on *Wednesday April 28th and Friday June 25th.* *Please make a note in your diaries.*

Sacramental Programme 2020-2021. The school and parish have had to make significant changes to the programme for this year. First Holy Communion will take place over a series of Fridays in the summer term in smaller groups. A separate letter to all concerned (Y3 & Y4) has been sent home already. Anyone in Y3 and Y4 still unsure then please contact school.

Before Y3 make their First Holy Communion, they will need to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession). You will appreciate time is now very tight if we are to enable the children to go on and make their First Holy Communion before the summer. As a result, Father Simon and I have agreed that First Confession for Y3 will now take place during school time on Monday March 29th (just as Holy Week has begun). Due to numbers involved, it will prove impossible to invite individual families and stay within the guidelines/restrictions. As a result, the sacrament will be during the school morning with myself and Mr Barton overseeing the children. Whilst not our usual approach and not our preferred option it is the only way we can complete the sacrament and thus allow Y3 to go on and make their First Holy Communion in June. Please contact school if you wish to chat about any of the above.

Confirmation 2021. Father Simon in two Masses will now confirm the children on the same evening; a definite date will follow shortly. The first mass will be at 5:00pm the second at 7:00 pm. Mr Barton will write to Y6 shortly with specific mass times and arrangements.

Contact details. I must write again to please make sure school has your up to date contact details. I cannot stress enough how important this. Please let the office know if your details have changed, whether that be a mobile number or your e-mail address. This letter is only sent out electronically (and displayed on the website) so to access it school **MUST HAVE** the correct e-mail address.

Easter Holiday. School breaks up for the Easter break on Holy Thursday April 1st at 1:00pm. School returns for the summer term on Monday April 19th.

Please Pray For. All those that are anxious or worried as we return to school.

Many thanks for your support and cooperation with all these matters.

Happy Mother's Day to Mums everywhere!

M Aldred. Head teacher.



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MEMBER



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