**SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School**



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01.05.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

The governors, staff and I hope that this letter reaches you all in good health.

This weekly letter aims to reach out to our SS John and Monica school community during this challenging time and summarise any recent updates.

Staff continue to work very had behind the scenes, speaking to parents and ensuring that our children have enough work to keep them busy. We have already sent out a wealth of on-line learning work and links to last for the coming weeks. Again, please encourage your children to do as much or as little as they can manage. Reading is the most important thing and this we would expect our children to do daily. Little and often is the key to becoming a competent reader and being a fluent reader has a direct link to how children perform in all the other curriculum areas.

There has been many problems regarding the government’s national free school meals voucher scheme. Mrs. Broadhurst has been working very hard to try to support families in this area. I am aware that many parents across the country have had problems accessing vouchers, so if you need further assistance please contact the school office.

Managing our own and children’s mental health has to be the priority during this difficult time. I am sure that we all have good days and bad days, as we navigate the challenges of lockdown and try to keep some sort of routine for our children. The cliché taking things ‘One day at a time’ is certainly a mantra that many of us are living by. A range of new, easily accessible mental health support is also now available for parents in Birmingham and Solihull who may be finding things overwhelming. <https://www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/your-health/mental-health-support-offer>

We have already sent out lots of information regarding how parents can access support for mental health, on-line learning and Special Educational Needs to name but a few. We are also here to help if you need to call and speak to a senior leader, class teacher or member of the office staff.

We are aware that some of you may already know of someone who has died as a result of Covid-19. This is especially hard on a family and trying to explain this loss to children is very difficult. The following links helpful in supporting bereaved children and young people.

<http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/help-around-a-death/covid-19.aspx>

Recently, there has been much speculation about when and how schools will reopen. At the moment, things are unchanged and we should all be continuing to follow government lockdown guidance to minimise the spread of the virus. Please be rest assured that when schools do get further information about reopening, I will keep you informed.

I would like to draw your attention to an extraordinary collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children’s writers and illustrators. *‘The Book of Hopes’* is a completely free online book for children (KS2 and above) and families and is dedicated to the doctors, nurses, carers, porters, cleaners and everyone currently working in hospitals <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

Thank you for all your photos and video clips for our school Twitter feed. It is lovely to see how everyone is keeping busy– keep them coming in!



We would also like to wish Ramadan Mubarak to all our families who have recently celebrated the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

We continue to pray for the health and well-being of all in our school community.

Stay Safe and God Bless,



Mrs. M. Elliott

Head Teacher

**If a child is in immediate danger of significant harm a call should be made to CASS on 0121 303 1888.**​

**If you encounter a dangerous or unsafe situation, please contact the police.**​

