



## LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD



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Friday 3 April 2020

Dear parents,

We have arrived at the conclusion of a momentous term. Who could have imagined that, when we opened the school gates on Tuesday 7 January, the new term so full of hope and excitement, would end in such a way. The global events that we are experiencing will be remembered for generations to come, taught in schools and studied by our children's children.

Let us, however, keep positive and hopeful. By taking the unprecedented steps that we have been asked by social distancing, staying at home, increased handwashing, we are halting the spread of Coronavirus. By stepping out and clapping NHS staff on Thursday evenings, we are remembering and honouring workers whose selfless dedication truly deserve honouring – and to all our parents who fall into the those key worker categories, my applause last night was for you. Thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to our staff who have arrived at school positive and smiling each day. This has not been an easy time, but they have truly deserved the messages of support received from parents over the past few weeks. Thank you to those parents who have taken the time to stop and talk to me if you happened to pass me while out exercising. Your comments have been passed on! Each message of support is important to us and keeps us buoyant.

### **DB Primary**

I am so pleased with the feedback that we have received regarding our online learning platform. It seems that the children are very much enjoying using it. It is still early days, and we will refine its use further, but thank you to all our parents who have encouraged their children to engage with it, and of course a massive well done to the children for the excellent work that they have produced. No work will be set for the children over Easter other than one piece of homework, and a very important task it is too!



## **Virtual Assembly**

Each Friday morning we hold a special act of worship in school – our weekly assembly. It always consists of our morning offering prayer, a reading from scripture followed by a response, a reflection and a mission to live out that day. This act of worship is the heartbeat of our life as a Catholic school.

Today there will be an assembly, albeit a virtual one. It has been prepared and can be found on the school website 'Catholic Life of the School' page. I would ask all parents to spend a few moments with their children focussed on this, helping with the reading if needed and reflecting on the important messages it contains. I would like to say a big thank you to those who have assisted me with making this happen.



## **Free School Meals**

A number of parents have requested information about Free School Meals (FSM). These will be available following the Easter break to those who are eligible for FSM, but does not apply to Universal FSM. This means that under normal circumstances, FSM are available to all children in EYFS or keys stage 1. The entitlement to FSM following Easter only applies to those who have applied for them. Parents of children who are entitled to FSM will be contacted individually.

## **Bounce Forward**

I have been forwarded details of an online learning course for parents called 'Online Resilience Course for Parents' and is aimed at 'helping children thrive at home.' I cannot claim to endorse this course, but it has come recommended by a parent and seems to be very appropriate to the challenges that many parents will be currently facing. The details are attached with this email.

## Prayer

To provide strength, hope and courage at this time, I have included a prayer and a reflection today. Please feel free to use them for your own private contemplation, with your children or as a family.

*Loving and healing God,*

we, the community of St George's, turn to you in prayer,  
confident that you are with us and with all people in every moment.  
We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection.  
May your faithful love support us and soothe the anxiety of our hearts.

*Generous God,*

fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old,  
that we may look after one another in these challenging days.  
Bring healing to those who are sick and be with their families.  
May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace.  
Comfort their family and friends.  
Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick  
and all who work in our medical facilities.  
Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance  
that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people.  
We pray in gratitude for all those in our country who will continue to work in the days ahead in so  
many fields of life for the sake of us all.  
Bless them and keep them safe.

O God of creation and life,  
we place ourselves in your protection.  
May the mantle of your peace enfold us this day and tomorrow.  
St Francis of Assisi, pray for us.  
St Therese of Lisieux, pray for us.  
St Josaphine Bakhita, pray for us.  
St Oscar Romero, pray for us.



May all the saints of God, with St George, pray for us.

**Amen.**

### **Lockdown – A Reflection by Brother Richard Hendrick**

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
But there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
The birds are singing again  
The sky is clearing,  
Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing.

*Brother Richard Hendrick, 13 March 2020*

In whatever way your Eastertime is spent, may I wish all our families a very happy and holy Easter  
blessed with health and happiness, and stay safe!

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P O'Rourke  
*Headteacher*

