



MR P. O'ROURKE BA (Hons), NPQH, MA
Headteacher

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
GORDON ROAD, ENFIELD
EN2 OQA

E-mail: office@st-georges.enfield.sch.uk
Website: www.st-georges.enfield.sch.uk

Tel: 020 8363 3729
Fax: 020 8367 2275

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Dear parents,

I have been looking through the school diary and being reminded of some activities that we had originally planned for this week, such as a SEND coffee morning, year 3 being scheduled to partake in workshops organised by Nat West, year 6 had maths workshops organised and there was also a maths café for year 1. Even though we cannot recreate these experiences online, we are very appreciative of the positive comments that we have received regarding the learning activities on DB Primary, and I hope that you have found the supplementary activities on the Oak Academy (<https://www.thenational.academy/>) helpful.

We miss the children being in school, but know that we are doing the right thing by keeping numbers to an absolute minimum and ensuring that we do all we can to halt the spread of Coronavirus. Government announcements over the past few days are a reminder that, difficult as it is, our actions are having a hugely positive effect.

Homeschooling

I would like to reassure parents that whilst supporting your children using DB Primary, parents are not expected to be teachers and children are not expected to learn as they do in school. Please deal with remote learning in the best way that you can by guiding the children and helping them to ensure that they complete the work that is set if possible. A concern that some parents have expressed is that their children will fall behind with their learning at this time. Please do not add this pressure on yourself. When things begin to return to normal, whenever that may be, the school will be taking steps to ensure that everyone gets back on track.



School attendance

It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children. Reducing the number of children making the journey to school, and reducing the number of children in educational settings, will protect the NHS and save lives by reducing the risks of spreading the virus.

Prayer

Today's prayer is from All Saints Church. Please use it as a family or for private contemplation.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen.

I would like to conclude this letter by paying tribute to the wonderful efforts of our teachers and support staff who are adapting brilliantly to working at school in a very different and strange environment, but always ensuring that a warm and welcoming smile greets the pupils each morning.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P O'Rourke
Headteacher