



Coronavirus

A book explaining Coronavirus to children has been written by E. Jenner, K. Wilson and N Roberts and illustrated by Axel Scheffler (who illustrated the book 'The Gruffalo').

A link to this book is available at:

<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/latest-news/coronavirus-a-book-for-children-by-e-jenner-k-wilson-n-roberts-and-illustrated-by-axel-scheffler/>

if you would like to share it with your children.

Online Learning

We now have a dedicated section on our school website for online learning, which contains links to various websites which we hope you will find useful and which are regularly updated

<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/online-learning/>

In particular:

Coach Ben has created a 'PE at home' booklet which contains lots of ideas about how to stay active at home.

The government have also produced a list of online resources – there is a link to this in our online learning section.

'Hungry Little Minds' is a website designed for parents / carers who have children aged 0- 5 years. This contains suggestions for activities you could do with your children at home.

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>.

Safeguarding

Support is available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

[Thinkuknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency)

[Parent info](#)

[Net-aware](#) (support from the NSPCC)

[Let's Talk About It](#) (support to keep children safe from online radicalisation)

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) (tips, advice, guides)

Prayer Focus

The Wednesday Word, from which we draw our weekly focus, will not be published as a leaflet during the lockdown period. However it is still being produced electronically and we will share this with families via email. The first link will be sent out next week.

Keeping in touch

Staff have been contacting all our families during the 'lockdown' and will continue to do so over the coming weeks.

New online home learning has been set for pupils and work sent via post to families who have requested it. Please don't worry if you cannot complete everything that has been suggested, we realise that these are difficult times for families, especially if parents / carers are also trying to work from home.

It has been good to find out how everyone is and hear about the different ways that you are all keeping busy. One parent (thank you to Mrs Murray) kindly shared the fact that if you have a child aged between 5 and 9 years old, you can sign up for a free subscription to LEGO Life magazine <https://www.lego.com/en-gb/life/magazine>.

You can also download the latest edition of the magazine for free from the same website.

(NB: there is also a 30 day LEGO challenge on the school website).

Please feel free to email any other information that you think would be of interest to share with families at St Mary's and we will send these out to our families in a future email.

Rainbow thank yous

The small number of pupils who are still in school made their own rainbow mobiles this week, to remember all those people in the community who are keeping us safe during the lockdown.

If you have created your own rainbow at home, or would like to, please send a photograph to the school email address and we will create a school gallery of rainbows on our website.



Whilst the school is open for a small number of children, just a reminder that the over-riding advice from the government continues to be that if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

Free School Meals

As you are probably aware, the government has requested that schools continue to provide support for children who are entitled to benefits-related Free School Meals but who are not able to attend school at present. The advice we have received is that where schools are not able to provide eligible pupils not attending school with meals or food parcels through their current food provider, they can provide eligible families with supermarket vouchers. Vouchers should be made available to the adult with caring responsibility for that child.

Schools are concentrating their effort and resources on those who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals at this time. There is no requirement to continue to provide universal infant free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, or year 2 who are unable to attend school. Children in those year groups who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are being supported.

The full guidance is available on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools#national-voucher-scheme>

The government says that applications from parents / carers for children who are newly eligible for Free School Meals should continue to be processed by the Local Authority. If this applies to you, there is more information available:-

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>

The government has set up a national voucher scheme which, not surprisingly has suffered some teething problems. Our eligible families have already received one set of supermarket vouchers and the next batch has been ordered from an alternative supplier. These vouchers should be with families by the middle of next week and will bring everyone up to date with their entitlement. As soon as the vouchers are ready, Mitzi will be in contact to let those families know.