

21 April 2020

Updates linked to School Closures

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are all well and that you had a peaceful Easter. I am writing to you with some further important information regarding the education of your children during the Coronavirus crisis.

Home schooling

Our staff continue to work to provide the very best resources to support home learning. In addition to this, the Government has produced some guidance aimed at helping parents and carers who are home schooling:

- Guidance on helping **children aged 2 to 4** learn at home can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Guidance on helping **primary school aged children** learn at home can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Guidance on helping **children with special educational needs and disabilities** learn at home can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

I would like to thank you all for the support you are providing at home in working with your children.

Online resources

- BBC bitesize has launched an education package across TV and online. This features celebrities and teachers to help home learning. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- The Government is promoting the Oak National Academy (www.thenational.academy) and the work a group of teachers has carried out on producing lesson resources for a range of subjects across all year groups. Many of the resources are video resources. Staff in our schools are aware of these resources and will make use of them, when they tie in with the school's curriculum.
- In addition, staff in our secondary schools are starting to produce short input video recordings to support learning for our Year 10 and Year 12 pupils who will be sitting GCSEs and A-Levels next year.



Internet safety

In this time of social isolation, it is important for young people to keep in contact with their friends using social media. However, it is also important to recognise that safe use of the internet and social media is vitally important to protect children and young adults. Below is a list of Government recommended websites to help you ensure your children stay safe on-line:

- [Thinkuknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)
- [Let's Talk About It](#) (support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) (tips, advice, guides)

Please contact your child's school if you have any concerns about internet safety.

Devices for disadvantaged learners

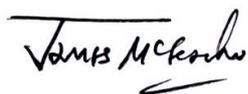
On Sunday, the Government announced that it will be ordering devices (such as Laptops) to support disadvantaged learners during this period of school closures. The following groups of children will be eligible for this support:

- children with a social worker
- care leavers
- disadvantaged pupils in Year 10 ('disadvantaged' has not yet been defined by the Government)

These will be ordered by us - parents and carers are not able to order them. The Government has told us that schools will be able to order these for pupils later this week. We will provide more information when we can.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your great understanding, patience and support during this challenging time. We pray every day for everyone in our community, that you and your families will all stay safe and well and that anyone who is ill makes a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely



James McGeachie
CEO, Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT

Mrs Tracy Lane
Headteacher, St Patrick's Catholic Primary VA

