

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

I hope you are staying safe and keeping well. On Monday evening, following on from Boris Johnson's announcement we decided to move to a skeleton staff model. We now have two teams working on a weekly rotation.

Key worker children that have been in school over the last few days have been engaging with lots of outdoor activities, such as building a bug hotel, planting tree saplings and various sporting games and art activities. We are not following a set timetable or schedule and are basing the activities on the number of children attending and the age ranges. We are not following the usual school routines as we have reduced staffing in school. It doesn't seem right to say this, but we are not actually teaching them, we are providing care to the children so their parents can carry out the critical roles that they need to do.

Please remember that if you no longer need the childcare provision place we have held for you in school, you MUST inform us so we can update our numbers.

We have received a number of communications from parents who perhaps are feeling under pressure by everything that's happening and the expectation of class work at home. We are all in an unprecedented emergency situation impacting on everyone. Some families are trying to work from home, care for children, look after other vulnerable family members whilst trying to stay safe - it's a difficult time for our whole school community!

You are, and always have been, your child's primary educator. If you decide that your child isn't going to engage with anything on our website and is going to spend the entire period playing in the dirt, or baking, or watching TV, then that is your choice. That is your right. There is nothing to stress or feel guilty about.

We have included some examples of activities and tasks the children could do at home on our website. We've also included some useful websites on our twitter page. Even if everything were equal in terms of support, time and number of children (which it's not) all children learn at different rates. In the class there's a wide range of levels in all subjects, there's different paces and there are many children working on differentiated levels of work. It's almost impossible for teachers to differentiate at the moment, so you don't have to do it either. Your child will not fall behind.

As a whole school guide, the following ideas could be completed by our children at home:

- Reading every day (independent or to them or via audiobook - <https://stories.audible.com/discovery> has many free audiobooks.
- Some free writing now and then – perhaps a diary entry each day? <https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-gb/browse/free-resources> includes a variety of activity packs
- Practical hands on maths. Be that via cooking, cleaning, outside or some maths games, physical or digital. We have also added revision maths activities on each class page from the Herts for Learning maths team. They (Year 2 – 6) could also log in to their TTRockstars account.
- Some fine motor work. Lego, cutting, playdough, tidying up even or helping out in the garden.



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- Physical exercise everyday – Joe Wicks is doing a daily workout for children every morning at 9:00am. He has also uploaded other workout videos on his youtube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>
- Cosmic Kids yoga <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga> includes yoga and mindfulness activities
- Some art/music where possible through the week.
- If they are older they could independently work on a project they are interested in. They could research using a book or use the internet to put together something to present to you or family.
- If your children are younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better.

You are doing enough. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising stress is absolutely vital in a time like this for mental health.

To try and keep our community together during this challenging time, please send photos (only if you can!) of your home activities to admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk and I will tweet the images when I can. Please remember, our twitter feed [@StMClitherow](https://twitter.com/StMClitherow) can be seen on our school website, you do not need to follow us to see the updates.

God Bless and Stay Safe

Puccio

Miss Puccio
Headteacher



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