



Newsletter 27
3rd April 2020



Dear Parents,



I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well. This is the Rainbow on display in our school window, created during our Key Worker child sessions.

In normal times, tomorrow would be our end of term... but these are not normal times! As a school we want to support your children as best we can and I hope you have appreciated the daily class blogs. We hope that they support in both giving the children some structure to their day and keeping them in touch with their learning. I have had a variety of comments from parents – all appreciative but some suggesting more work and some less. Teachers are mindful of providing a variety of activities but also of the importance of keeping Maths and English learning fresh and active for when they do return to school.

Please be aware that, at present, the teachers are not able to respond to children individually other than on the blog. They are working hard to prepare work for the blog, monitor their blogs and provide care for key workers' children in school. They also have the same issues families everywhere have in dealing with the public health emergency. We have had a few requests for further live engagement, but, at present I think we have to be mindful of the situation in the country and in each family. We are all adjusting and are aware of the significant stresses and strains on everyone.

Regarding the Easter Holiday. All classes will be given homework tasks for the holidays. These tasks are there for the children's benefit but are optional. Children can also look back over the work already set if they have not done so already. Staff have been instructed to take a break from school and they will not be responding to the blogs over this time. Daily class blogs and expectations will resume on April 20th. As always, in an emergency, we can be contacted via the office email.

I am launching a Community Cuthbert blog to celebrate the work and activities children are doing at home. This will also be a means whereby children can see what others are doing and maybe pick up a few ideas. If you wish to contribute to the blog please email a picture, video or news to blog@cuthbertmayne.herts.sch.uk. This email is active now and the link to the blog will be put on the website soon. Please only send material that you are happy to be published on the blog and I look forward to hearing what you are up to.

St Cuthbert Mayne will continue to make provision for key worker children in the Easter Holidays. This will be located at St Rose's School where our staff will also be supporting.

From a spiritual aspect, Fr Brian live-streamed Mass from St Mark's last Sunday and was able to connect with a large number of families in this way. The Hemel parishes hope to provide this every Sunday at 11am. The link can be found at <http://www.hemelcatholic.org/mass-live/> Details of a number of live web Masses elsewhere in the diocese can be found on <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/>

We have been forwarded information regarding help to families during this public health emergency and I would like to share them with you below. We are here to support in any way we can.

I hope you are able to celebrate Easter with your families and connect with your Parish.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Best wishes

Fionnuala Smith
Head Teacher

Free School Meals.

There may be more families who qualify for this support. Follow the link below to help you see if you qualify. During school closure, those eligible for Free School Meals will receive e-vouchers through school during term time.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Help

For those in immediate need, there is help available from the Hemel foodbank. Families can ring them direct and explain their circumstances.

Details as follows:

Dacorum foodbank
The Hub

Paradise Depot Paradise
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HP2 4TF
01442 250969

Families First News

Covid19 Special Edition

Coronavirus - useful links

During this challenging and extraordinary time we thought it would be good to put together some of the useful information and links that have been sent our way.

We have collated the information into a few pages which we hope will be of use to partners in supporting the families you work with.

[Covid-19 - Families First Response](#)

The latest news

[Hertfordshire united against coronavirus](#)

[Where do I get the latest information?](#)

[Links for Mental Health and General Wellbeing](#)

[Useful links for Home Schooling, Learning, games etc](#)

[Keeping Active at Home - Herts Sports Partnership update](#)

[Citizens Advice - Email and Phone Support](#)

[Safer Places](#)

[CGL Spectrum response](#)

[Parenting Together Support Programme](#)

[Hertfordshire Adult & Family Learning Service \(HAFLS update\)](#)

Link to the issue [View the issue](#)

Guidance for parents and carers: keeping children safe online

We have updated our information for parents and carers to include a section on keeping children safe online. It provides links to online resources that will help support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online.

Full details can be found in section 6.3 of the guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>