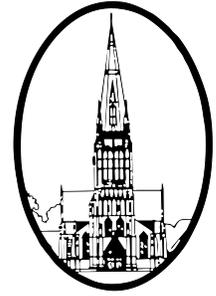


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*"St Mary's.... feeding the mind, body and spirit so we can
be the best we can be."*

20th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well as we continue to navigate these undoubtedly difficult waters.

Easter provided some sort of normality in my household including chocolate eggs and an Easter roast dinner, that said we missed our friends and family with whom we would normally have spent this time with.

Today we see in the new term and so I wanted to update you on some things. Our class teachers will continue to share learning with your children via google drive / website every week.

The government have today launched an interactive online learning platform called Oak National Academy for children from Reception up to secondary school age. This is free and is a great resource to supplement learning provided by the class teachers. In addition BBC bitesize have also launched their homelearning platform today which also looks very helpful. Please see the links below.

Oak National Academy

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

BBC bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

As a parent, I understand how challenging 'home learning' can be! Please be reassured that as parents and carers you can only do your best in these really challenging circumstances and if you can keep some sort of routine and manage to keep your children engaged you are doing an exceptional job. Just keeping your children busy and interested in things, even if it's completely outside the curriculum, is brilliant! As you will know from the newsletters, baking has been a



big thing in our house and now gardening (planting a few seeds and plants to be precise). If you can get your children helping with these things and activities around the house, like folding washing, cooking dinner, playing games, hoovering, singing songs then take pride in these small triumphs! At this time we also need to focus on wellbeing and if doing nice things together supports you and your family, that is important. Remember there is information on the website with information on mental wellbeing, should you need them.

There has been lots of speculation in the press about when schools will return. We have no date for when children will return to school. As soon as we know the plan, we will of course contact you, however I am sure that this is a good few weeks away yet. I would imagine that there are also many things that need to be put in place before school is open, to keep everyone safe.

Please keep updated via our website and through emails.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes

Jane O'Brien
Headteacher

