



So we find ourselves in the middle of something completely out of our control and I think all of us have found it hard to deal with. As I said in my letter yesterday, I am so grateful to all of the staff here who have worked so hard to keep things as normal as possible as we move forwards. We have been affected in the same way as you and many are now self-isolating for their own good or the good of their family. I would also like to thank all of you who have sent in or passed on kind messages over the last days; they have made it slightly easier to cope!

We have had a lovely morning with the children all learning "survival skills"- hopefully these are skills they can use on their own and without help from you over the next few weeks - or perhaps they could teach you how to speed stack?

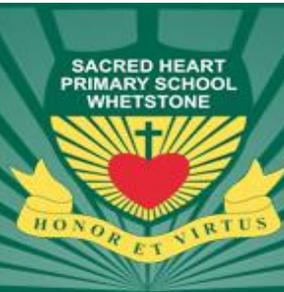
We will endeavour to keep in touch with you while we are closed. The office email is available (office@sacredheart.barnetmail.net) and we will send updates, although not weekly newsletters. The website will be updated daily with work for the children and we will also use Twitter to pass on any other resources made available.

School will remain open for vulnerable and key workers' children. At the moment we have no idea what this will look like as we cannot be sure of number of children or staff. I would draw your attention to the guidance from the government:

*Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. **Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.***

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

- 1. *If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.***
- 2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.*
- 3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.*
- 4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.*
- 5. Residential special schools, boarding schools and special settings continue to care for children wherever possible.*



We cannot provide cover for every child eligible for it, so PLEASE only use us as a very last resort. We may need to limit numbers or prioritise participants if we do not have enough staff.

Although I hope that we will be able to meet together before the end of the school year, it would be remiss of me not to mention Year 6. I hope that we will have you all together again, but whatever happens we are proud of you and know that you will make the best of this experience. As we said this morning, God has his plans for all of you, and you will discover them as you continue on your life journeys.

Finally, I was sent these words from Isaiah and they seem to fit well:

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass
through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not
overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not
consume you.
For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour...Because you are
precious in
my sight, and honoured, and I love you...*

We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Secondary School Destinations

Please could Y6 parents email the school to advise which school their children will be transferring to in September. We still hope that our Year 6 teachers will be able to meet with the Heads of Year 7 to pass on all relevant information.

Parents Association Notices **School Uniform**

The school uniform sale will not take place today but please rest assured we will have one as soon as the school reopens to give you the opportunity to buy uniform for the new term.



Easter Egg Raffle

At this time of year, we normally sell raffle tickets to raise funds for the school and for the kids to have some fun. It didn't feel appropriate in the current climate to be selling tickets in the playground but at the same time we didn't want the children to miss out. We therefore decided to change things a little this year and give every child the opportunity to win an Easter Egg with classes holding class raffles/games so if your child came home from school on Wednesday with an Easter Egg, they were one of our lucky winners. A big thank you to our Easter Bunny (aka Marian Donohue, mum to Niamh 2J) who has been stockpiling Easter Eggs since January and to the teachers for organising the games!

Bag2School Collection

If you're looking for a fun game with the kids whilst you're at home, how about a game of "Let's clear out the wardrobes". Please put your unwanted good condition clothes, shoes, belts and bags (no school uniform please) in a bin-bag and keep these safe for when the Bag2School lorry comes (all being well, on the 11th June).

Sacred Heart Families Facebook page

If you haven't already done so, please join the "Sacred Heart Families" Facebook group. It is closed group and in the challenging weeks ahead, it will be a lovely way of keeping in touch and sharing information so we don't feel so alone. Remember we are not just parents of children at a school but a caring community who can look out for each other and our families. Keep well.