



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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26th January 2021

Dear Parent

January is dedicated to the Most Holy name of Jesus

Devices to support Home Learning:

All those families who have received a school laptop on loan for their home learning MUST use it for this purpose. If the children are not participating in learning, the device will be collected and redistributed to those who will make better use.

Snow Day ... Thank you so much to all of you who appreciated the 'down time' with your children yesterday. We decided to offer this as snow is not such a common occurrence in our country and when it does come, despite the travel concerns, it is great just to get out and enjoy it. The children clearly had a great time from all the photos we received. Thank you!

Wireless Wednesday/Mental Health Awareness

Next week is Mental Health Awareness week – it is a well published fact that the cyber world has a large influence on the emotional and mental health and wellbeing of all people – children and adults. We are also acutely aware that too much electronic screen time – and the blue light effect – is not good for children (or adults), interfering with sleep etc. So, as a staff, we feel that from next week onwards – **each Wednesday afternoon will be given over to non-screen related activities.** We are in the process of developing a bank of ideas on what these activities will look like – they will be independent so that parents time is not required too much – and will allow the children to explore e.g. the outside world/music/poetry/architecture/art etc. We would be really happy to receive any of your ideas too.

Expressions of Dissatisfaction

If, as a parent, there is something you do not agree with, want to query or question, or even put an idea forward – please DO NOT use the public messaging service via your child's class page on eSchools to do so. These private issues become public and this is not acceptable or fair to staff who are working extremely hard in difficult circumstances. Please use the private email system set up on this platform or email enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk We recognise that times are difficult and that everyone is finding life hard and this includes our teaching staff. Let us work together in love and support for your children.

To the majority of parents who have sent in messages of support and thanks for the recognised challenges our teachers face – thank you – you may not realise how uplifting these are, but they really are!



Candlemas – 2nd February

Next Tuesday is the feast of Candlemas and the 40th day after Christmas - it is a day to honour. Perhaps we could all light a candle on that day and pray for recovery and an end to this pandemic. Let us remember what Mary was told by Simeon about her future sufferings and that "she pondered all these things in her heart". Let us quietly ponder a little more too.

Have a great week and stay safe and well!

Yours sincerely,

HMCusack

Headteacher