



# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121- 464 2141 Fax: 0121-464 8312

Email: [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

[www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Miss H.M. Cusack M.Ed.



12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent

## May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary

### **13<sup>th</sup> May – Feast of Our Lady of Fatima**

Tomorrow, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Fatima – it would be lovely if all the children in the Fatima classes (at least) could say one decade of the Rosary to end this pandemic.

Our Lady to Lucia Santos - Fatima: *"Don't lose heart, I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."*

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

### **Schools Opening:**

You will be aware that the government has issued new guidance and that schools are likely to re-open to some children from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Until we have much more information and agreement that this is safe for children and staff, we will be cautious in our response. We will, however, keep you fully informed via our Twitter account and website. When plans have been formalised, you will be written to in order to explain the new routines to maintain social distancing at all times.

When/ if we do return (the government is clear that infection rates must remain low over the next three week period to permit schools to re-open), we respectfully ask that if you have not kept to the government lockdown guidance that you do NOT send your child into school. For example, if you have allowed others from outside of your household to visit your home or you have met up with people outside of your immediate family and not from within your own household.

The government guidance is to 'stay alert' to avoid infectious virus spread when present restrictions are eased. Deviating from social distancing, for example, will ultimately jeopardise the safety and security of the children and staff who will be in school. The government's latest guidance is based largely on TRUST until a systematic means of alerting potential infection is in place. We rely on our parents and staff to be trustworthy in this crucial way - for the safety of all.

We also ask that if your child or any members of your household display any suspected Covid-19 symptoms whatsoever (i.e. cough, high temperature, lethargy) that you keep to the two week self-isolation procedure that is currently in place.

Thank you!

**Washing Hands!** *It is crucial that, as we prepare to return to school in some form, that the children are really well trained in hand washing – 20 seconds with soap, in between fingers etc. If it is the single most important thing to do to protect ourselves (as we have been told), then it is the single most important preparation/training you can provide to your child in order to help us all stay safe when we return.*

5<sup>th</sup> week of Eastertide



## The God who Speaks to us...

Let us be courageous in our response to do the right thing.



### First Holy Communion/Confirmation 2020

Many of our Y3 children should have been receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist over these two weekends and most of our Y6 celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. We continue to hold these children in our prayers and hope that the delay will mean they treasure these sacred Gifts even more.

### School 'Report' – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you to all who have responded to their child's report of attainment and progress up to the point of closure. It would be helpful to have a comment from all parents so that we can more closely work together when school returns and is fully operational. Your comments will help us enormously – thank you! Now, more than ever, parents - as the first (and most important) teachers of their children - are playing a crucial role in their attitudes and learning behaviours and we are immensely grateful for all that you are doing to sustain them. Thank you!

### Parent Questionnaire

Thank you so much to all who have responded so far. Please take 5 minutes to respond – when/if you have a quiet moment!

Due to the school's current closure to the majority of pupils, this year's questionnaire is online and can be found by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/StMaryB17> Please be assured that we consider each and every response we receive.

Also note that to fill in the questionnaire, you will have to leave an email address, which means that your responses are not anonymous. However, since we value all honest feedback, please do not be put off by this.

Stay safe!

Yours sincerely,

H M Cusack  
Headteacher