

St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Hughes MA (Cantab), PGCE

Worple Street, Mortlake
London SW14 8HE

Telephone: 020 8876 6679

Email: admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk

Website: www.st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk

Thursday 31st December

Dear Parents,

I am sure that you will have seen the revised government guidance that was issued yesterday. It has been decided that to help contain the community transmission of coronavirus, our school will be closed for the next two weeks.

We will provide online learning for all of our pupils from Monday 4th January. This will include live English and mathematics lessons and daily drop in sessions to provide pupils with support and feedback. Children in Reception and Year 1 will also receive phonics lessons and we will provide weekly science, religion and topic lessons.

A timetable for your child's day will be in their Google classroom on Monday. We will try to stagger the times of the live lessons as we are aware that families will not have one device for each child. However, if you are unable to watch the lessons live, you will be able to watch recordings of the lessons later in the day.

Although I am sad not to be welcoming you all back in person, we have been planning for this eventuality and I am sure you will see that there is a significant difference in the online offer from spring and summer last year. I am sure there will be some slight issues and I would ask for you to be patient as I am sure you will be aware that our staff are working incredibly hard in these very challenging circumstances. The most important thing remains the well-being of our community, so rest assured that we will do everything we can to assist you.

We will be open only for vulnerable pupils and for the children of critical workers. In order for us to make the necessary arrangements for Monday, I would ask you to email the school office as soon as possible if you are a critical worker ideally by midday today. Information regarding who is eligible for these places can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Please email: admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk and provide the name/s of your child/children, the days they will need to be in school and documentation to support your application e.g. an ID badge or a letter from your employer. As our teachers will be providing live lessons for pupils, they will not be staffing this provision and I would ask you to only use it if it is absolutely necessary, as the main aim of closing the school is to minimise contact between households and so reduce transmission in the community.

When these restrictions will be lifted remains under government review. However, I am hopeful that, if we all play our part, we will soon be able to welcome the children back to school and ensure that our community stays safe and well.

I know that this year has been incredibly difficult for many of our families and I am sorry to be sharing this unfortunate news on the last day of the year. Please do reach out if you need support and know that you and your children are in our thoughts and prayers as we welcome in 2021.

Yours sincerely,
Catherine Hughes, Headteacher



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