

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

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Dear Parents,

I am sure you know that on Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead it is hoped that it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools from Monday 8 March. This is disappointing for all of us and I am sure that for some of our community, it will be particularly demoralising. However, hopefully this extended lockdown will mean that when the children do return to school, it will be permanently and we will not have to suffer further disruption going forward.

As you may know, we have had positive cases within our on-site provision and I would ask you to consider the privacy and feelings of pupils, parents and staff in your communications. I would also ask you, where necessary, to remind your children that these matters are confidential and that some people may not want to discuss them. It is particularly important that Google classroom and live lesson time is not spent discussing these private, personal matters.

With at least four weeks of remote learning ahead of us, I would encourage you to be kind to yourselves and to reach out for support if you need it. I am conscious of adding to the list of things parents feel they should do but if you are interested in activities to support your child's mental health and well-being, the charity place2be has a wide range of activities and texts that you can access online <https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/>.

Next week is Children's Mental Health week and my assembly will be about this and the challenges your children may be facing. On Wednesday we will be taking part in inside out day and wearing a piece of clothing inside out as a reminder that we never know how others feel on the inside. Please do join in at home. Miss Farrell has also added activities from the website with links to stories, music and art activities to the wellbeing folder in your child's Google classroom if you would like to access these. More information can be found at: <https://www.insideoutday.org.uk/> As always, do not hesitate to contact the school if you need additional support; this is more important now than ever.

Many of you are participating in the SPARK book awards and have ordered books to share with your children. Hopefully, the books will arrive for collection next week. As we all know the power of a good book, we have decided to introduce an optional St Mary Magdalen's story time Monday-Thursday for all year groups which will hopefully offer a bit of respite and relaxation for everyone.

It is wonderful to continue to have things to celebrate within our community and I wanted to finish this week's letter by congratulating Year 2 who have been taking part in an online maths competition. I am delighted to say the Angel Fish Class came third in this borough wide competition and Starfish class came first! A wonderful achievement for our small school and a testament to our children and their ability to persevere and excel despite the current circumstances. You and your children remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely,
Catherine Hughes, Headteacher