



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT
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18th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

SCHOOL CLOSURE

As you are aware, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March are due to be normal teaching days. However, in-light of ongoing health concerns, we made the decision to change these days to Staff Development & Baker Days.

On these days, children stay at home while our staff will be in school continuing with their preparations for remote learning, in the event of our school closing due to COVID-19/Coronavirus.

While closure of school is imminent, our teachers and classroom assistants have been working diligently to prepare learning materials for our children. We will continue to work on these learning packs, plan for remote teaching and learning strategies over the next few days.

We are conscious this decision has been made at very short notice and we apologise wholeheartedly for this and any inconvenience caused to you. We know you will appreciate that this is an unprecedented and critical situation for us all. It is our aim to keep the health and well-being of our children, staff, families and local community at the forefront of all our decisions and actions as we attempt to navigate these unchartered times. At the moment school will be open as normal on Monday 23rd March and we intend to follow guidance from the Department of Education and Public Health Agency.

We take this opportunity to remind everyone that social distancing is now the most sensible and responsible way to slow the spread of Coronavirus. Even though your child or you may not be showing any signs/symptoms, you may still be carrying the virus and risk infecting others, including those more vulnerable than you. If you have any concerns, please access the most up to date advice on the Public Health Agency website <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

As a Catholic school, we encourage you to follow the guidance of Pope Francis and pray for those who are ill, for medical staff, for decision makers and for those who are working to guarantee public services. We pray that everyone in our entire community remains safe over the following days.

We will keep you updated using the school texting service (*if you did not receive a text message to your nominated number on Tuesday 17th March please contact the school immediately*), the school website and Facebook page. An update will be issued on Friday 20th March 2020.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Helen Magee
Principál

Principal: Mrs Helen Magee
BA (QTS) Hons, PQH (NI)