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17/3/20

Dear Parents / Carers,

Due to the advice given by the Prime Minister on the 16th March we will be **postponing Parent's Evening** today and tomorrow to avoid any 'non-essential contact'.

The advice about protecting the country's population has changed again. From today the government's advice is - If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- **new continuous cough and/or**
- **high temperature**

NHS advice for temperature in children is -

A normal temperature in babies and children is about 36.4C, but this can vary slightly from child to child. Public Health England describe a high temperature as 37.8 degrees centigrade or higher

The advice to stay at home applies to everybody in a household. When reporting a child's absence please let us know if anybody in the household has the symptoms above. If your child was away due to a cough on Monday 16th they should not return to school until after the Easter holidays. If we notice one of the symptoms while your child is in school we will contact you to take your child home and to keep them home for **14 days**. The main reason for this is of course the protection of all our children which will always be our main priority.

Yours sincerely

BJ Gill

PTO for home learning information

Home Learning while in Isolation

During this period, where the majority of children are in school and a small minority are away due to self isolation, teachers cannot plan, teach, assess and plan again for the class in school and provide a bespoke set of learning materials for those at home. Until we are at the point where the majority of children are away we will set up a generic set of materials for the children in each class who are self isolating. This will generally be consolidation exercises reinforcing learning that the children have experienced before. For the time being we will focus on the core skills of reading, writing, spelling and number facts. This information will appear on the class page of the school website later this week.

In the meantime under the curriculum tab on the website you can find the Key Learning Objectives for each year group. If you want to take advantage of free access to the educational resource website Twinkl you can do so. Resources on there should link to those Key Learning Objectives. The one minute maths examples are also under the curriculum tab.

Our subscriptions to Times Table Rock Stars, Literacy Planet and the handwriting site Letterjoin all include home access for parents and children. Children in both key stages should have a Literacy Planet username and password. Times Tables Rock Stars is generally aimed at key stage 2 children.

Home access to Letterjoin can be gained by using the user name gt1054 and password home. On a tablet the username is the same and the swipe code is the shape of a capital L.

Playing traditional games such as snakes and ladders, ludo can be of benefit. I have put some card and dice game ideas on the website under the curriculum maths tab. Chess is a fantastic game for logic and planning ahead but is the type of game many children do not learn to play due to time demands. Time is something we will probably have plenty of to fill in the coming weeks. Learning card games and board games will be skills that should last a lifetime and this is a great time to learn them.

If we come to the situation where the school is closed altogether more specific learning tasks will be set and instructions for accessing these will be set on the class page of the school website. Children who we know cannot access the website will be given paper based tasks to complete. Children will be expected to complete the homework set unless they themselves are ill. Illnesses should be reported to the individual teacher's email address or to st.josephs.rc.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk.

To avoid unnecessary social contact we will not be celebrating St Joseph's Day Mass in the church on Wednesday neither will we be holding our Stations of the Cross Service next week.