Friday 24th April

Dear St Mary’s Families

**Thank you**

Thank you to all who have stepped into the role of teacher and parent regardless of the other pressures on you at this time and the demands that household self isolating brings.

We all wish you a very safe journey and you are very much in our thinking.

We all continue to do what we can at this extraordinary time.

I am pleased to update that both my brother and nephew are now recovering without the need to go into hospital. Thank you too for your thoughts.

**Class Learning Resources and Teacher Contact**

All class resources are posted on the website weekly for Woodpecker, Owl, Kestrel and Eagle Class. For next week beginning 27th April Woodpecker, kestrel and Eagle Class have put together printed copies of learning resources. These have been sent in the post.

For week beginning 4th May Owl Class resources will be sent by post and Eagle Class have selected some resources to be sent.

The envelopes are addressed to the children. We hope that these arrive on time swiftly.

The Post Office have explained that whilst post is being delivered there are some interruptions to the post due to social distancing in the sorting offices.

**Phone Calls Home**

In addition teachers will be making individual calls to over the next week.

They will most likely be calling from their own homes so you may see a ‘No Caller ID’ message. Teachers are hoping to have an opportunity to check in and to find out if there are any ways in which school can support you further at this time.

**We are here**

A reminder that we are here and can be contacted via email [admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk) or by telephoning school or via the St Mary’s Axminster Facebook Group.

Any emergencies you are able to contact me directly via a school mobile set up for the school closure on 07493 825 328

We will respond as soon as possible.

During school closure St Mary’s remains open for children of keyworkers and for those designated vulnerable using Government criteria. Staff are working on a rota basis with strict social distancing and cleanliness protocols to keep all children and adults as safe as possible. Parents of children on the school register during this period are contacted as a group. They work to inform the school as far in advance as possible of the need for provision but can email the day before to access provision.

If your own circumstances change and you need guidance or support please do contact us. If your work and financial situation changes you may be advised along with other actions to register for Free School Meal Support. This will give support during school closure as well as going forward. You can access relevant information and application forms by following this link : [https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals](https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals" \t "_blank)

You can then follow the advice of 'how to apply' via the online link on this page called the 'Devon citizens portal'.  Alternatively, call Devon County Council directly on 0345 155 1019.

**Going Forward**

To date we are receiving the same information as you about the lockdown. We have been told that if schools are to open we will be given appropriate notice to prepare for this. We have no information beyond the current three week extended national lockdown. We await the next Government review which we understand is expected on Thursday 7th May.

There has been lots of speculation about schools both when and how they will reopen. Most significantly in The Sun and The Times newspapers but there is no fact that has been shared with schools about future plans. As soon as we do hear anything I will update you.

The first blossoms we have had on the apple trees donated by Sister Margaret when she retired from her role at St Mary’s.

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