



English Martyrs School, St. Mark Street, London E1 8DJ

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www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Headteacher – Miss B Nugent

Mission Statement “We are special people on a journey, growing and learning together in search of excellence, as we follow the footsteps of Jesus.”

Dear Parents,

27th April 2020

Home schooling - We have a small group of children in school whose parents are frontline workers. A rota of teachers and assistants are looking after the children in school.

Most teachers are working from home to keep themselves and family members safe during lockdown. Teachers are working hard to provide a carefully planned creative timetable with learning resources in the Learning tab on the website each week, we will plan to have these ready by Friday. The timetables are only a guide for you to plan activities with your children, do not let this cause any stress in your home. Miss O’Dea advises that children must read as often as possible to support phonics, spellings and general knowledge.

In response to queries about our teachers providing live lessons online this is not an option at this stage for a variety of reasons; equality of access - not all children have internet access and there are many safeguarding concerns regarding live streaming sites.

Primarily because of these issues the Education Secretary announced the launch of Oak National Academy which will offer many teacher-led pre-recorded video lessons weekly across many subjects for all year groups. Teachers have been assessing them this week and find them to be very useful with interesting activities and a good standard of expectations and from next week will recommend them in their planning.

With regard to safeguarding we also advise that you be extra vigilant during lockdown with your children’s online activity. Please text the school if you need any support.

https://www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk/uploads/1/2/5/0/125029216/online_safety_policy_july_19-20.pdf.

Teachers in Years 1 to 6 are using the Purple Mash platform to set some work for your children. Purple Mash has the facility to communicate with teachers at the end of some activities; children can also type their thoughts about an activity.

We have decided to set up a page within the Learning page of the website called blog@englishmartyrs so that families can communicate with the wider English Martyrs community.

An email address has been set up for you and your children to send thoughts, ideas, prayers, jokes, songs, poems, TV recommendations, reading recommendations etc. to be shared online via the website. It will be a family forum which will keep us in touch with each other during the weeks ahead. Contributions will be added weekly on Fridays and all content will have to be approved to ensure it follows our online safety policy. Please refresh your memories on the Acceptable Use sections at the end. A link to the Online Safety policy is above. The ‘posts’ will remain on the page for one week. The address is blog@englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk. You may send contributions now and we intend to have our first page by Monday 4th May. Thank you in anticipation.

Teachers are keen to have common theme for learning each week that can be celebrated as a school. This week all classes have a challenge to study a London Landmark; we hope you will enjoy this activity with your children. Families with more than one child can opt to do just one landmark if this proves more manageable. We also plan to enable children to share their learning with the wider school community via the website. Details will follow.

Yours sincerely,

Miss B Nugent