



English Martyrs School,
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Headteacher – Miss B Nugent

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

3rd April 2020

Dear Parents,

School is closed for the Easter holiday and will open on Monday 20th April for children of Key Workers whom I will text in advance.

Please pray for the safety of these members of our school community who are working in services at the front line during the weeks ahead.

I invite you all to keep me updated via text service if your circumstances change so we can support you in any way. We get daily updates and guidance from DFE and Tower Hamlets Education Service has an amazing network of support for schools during this time. You are not alone!

In response to common questions on the texting service we provide the following update.

Free school meal vouchers - The government has introduced a voucher scheme for pupils whose parents are in receipt of Income Support. These few parents have already provided evidence of their Income Support to school and are currently on our authorised list provided by Tower Hamlets Benefits Section.

The Mayor of London provides a free school meal for every Primary school child from Reception to Year 6. Parents who are claiming Universal Credits are not entitled to the Free School Meal Vouchers as set out in the guidelines by the Department for Education. All pupils will continue to receive a free school meal when school reopens.

School Photographer - the photographer attended school in March and took photos of 50% of pupils. We arranged for the photographer to return the following week to take photos of all the other pupils who were absent. Due to Corona Virus he was unable to return and is now not working due to social distancing. We will contact him when restrictions are lifted and request proofs for the children who did have their photograph taken.

Staff contact - Staff personal emails and telephone details must not be shared with parents, you can request support via the texting service but be mindful that staff are working from home.

Purple Mash - We have reset passwords as requested for Purple Mash for pupils who struggled to login, hopefully all of you are up and running. After Easter you will all be able to communicate with teachers via the blog in Purple Mash.

Easter Holidays - I expect teachers to take time away from school work over the Easter break and spend time with family to rest and recharge for the summer term. Please resist texting unless it is urgent.

I hope you will find time to allow your children to relax somewhat from studies and screen learning and find a way to celebrate the Easter Season and arrival of Spring or is it Summer?

Look after your priests! This must be a very surreal time for Fr Alex and Fr Andrew, perhaps you could encourage your children to make an Easter card, prayer or poem to send or deliver to their priest during this lonely time in their churches. Thank you all for your understanding and patience at this time. Wish you all a holy, happy, and healthy Easter.

Yours faithfully,

Miss B Nugent