

St George & St Martin Catholic Academy

(Member of The Newman Catholic Collegiate)

Boulton Street, Birches Head,

Stoke-on-Trent. ST1 2NQ.

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www.sgsmacademy.co.uk

Principal: Mrs. D. Farmer BA (Hons), MA, NPQH



'Growing, Learning and Loving; United in Play, Prayer and Peace'

13th April 2020

Dear Parents and Children,

As we enter Week 4 of our school being closed, I wanted to write to you to let you know that all of you are in our staff's thoughts and prayers.

This time being apart has made us all realise just how special our school is and how much of a family we are. It has been lovely having so many of you getting in touch via our Facebook page. You can also e mail the school on sgsmcp@sgsmnewman.co.uk, or e mail your child's teacher, or you can call the school mobile on 07923955068. Please do contact us if you need any assistance at all, or to share photos or good news stories; we love hearing from you.

I will of course keep you updated with any news of our school reopening, but we are very much guided by the government and it is not a decision we can make for ourselves.

I want to reassure you that whatever you are doing at home is fine. It is an unprecedented time and none of us know how to act during this time.

Be reassured that any little bits you are able to do with your child is sufficient. Some days, your child may just want to watch TV or play a video game, that's fine. Some days they may want to do some of their work packs, that's fine. Some days may be harder than others and that's ok. Your job as parents is to do the right thing for your child – I cannot tell you what that is. Our job as parents is to do our best to reassure and love our children; it is a difficult time for them as well as us.

As educators, we will ensure that once we are able to return to school, whenever that may be, children will be given the necessary work to 'catch up'. I saw a great post on Facebook earlier today that talked about rather than children 'missing school' maybe they will be more educated in basic life skills, be more empathetic, more able to communicate, enjoy the small things in life:

What if???

If they cancel the rest of the school year, students would miss 2.5 months of education. Many people are concerned about students falling behind because of this. Yes, they may fall behind when it comes to classroom education...

But what if...

What if instead of falling "behind", this group of kids are **ADVANCED** because of this? Hear me out...

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read, they love to express themselves in writing?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyard and sitting near a window in the quiet?

What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

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What if this generation are the ones to learn to cook, organize their space, do their laundry, and keep a well run home?

What if they learn to stretch a pound and to live with less?

What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, custodians, logistics, and health care workers and their supporting staff, just to name a few of the millions taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?

What if they are AHEAD?

Please do not hesitate to contact me, for any reason.

Stay safe and see you all soon

Mrs D Farmer