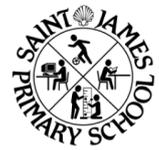


# **St James Church of England Primary School**

## **News Letter – Coronavirus April 2020**



Dear Parents & Carers,

**School Closure** - I am writing to you from a very quiet school. This really is something none of us have ever experienced before and I am so proud of everyone for pulling together at this time. The most important thing we can do right now is stay home and keep our loved ones safe. We are now starting to hear about how serious this is for Birmingham as hospitals in this area are looking after lots of coronavirus patients and will full soon. Our thoughts and prayers are with all our families and we hope that everyone returns to us safely when we open again. We have heard from lots of parents already and we are here if you need us. We do not know when schools will re-open, we will all see announcements at the same time in the news. We will keep updating the website and letting you know about any support and any key dates as they arrive.

**Free School Meal Vouchers** - The Birmingham City Council System was put in place for a couple of weeks while we waited for the new system from the Government. Hopefully you have now all accessed the vouchers from [www.vouchershopexchange.co.uk](http://www.vouchershopexchange.co.uk). The new system the Government have started is through EdenRed, so please look for emails from this company in the next week or so. At the moment with the whole country trying to access this website they are struggling to keep up with demand. We are now trying to upload information to them in the middle of the night – but still their system struggles to cope. Please rest assured we get them to you as soon as we get them but new systems are struggling to cope with the high demand.

**Key Workers** - School is open to key worker children – please note this means the school office is open for phone calls from 8.15 – 10.00am each day, so we can help with any queries. If you are a key worker and are using our services please make sure it is absolutely necessary – remember the children can carry the virus, but may not show symptoms. It is a risk to send them in and our staff are taking a risk as it is very difficult to get little ones to socially distance. We are happy to do this - but want to make sure no other options are available for the safety of all.

**Dear St James Children,**

Please read the letters from your Class Teachers and look at the new home learning part of the website for new ideas. [www.stjamesce.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stjamesce.bham.sch.uk)

We miss you all and I can't wait to open the doors again so we have all 420 smiling faces arrive at school for lots of fun and learning. The corridors are so quiet without your giggles and the classrooms do not look right at all!

This is something that has never happened before and one day in the future, when your children or grandchildren are at school they will probably study this as part of History. Anything you make or do will be evidence about this time – keep a dairy, a scrapbook, keep a record of what is happening and one day you will be able to share this with your families.



I hope you have all made rainbows for your windows to support the NHS.

Please stay safe and well – Keep washing those hands – I look forward to seeing all of you when you get back and the St James family will be fully reunited.

*Lots of Love Miss Cross & All the staff at St James*