



Diocese of Northampton
St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School

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Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you already know, from Friday 20th March, schools across the United Kingdom will close to most students but remain open to the children of key workers and to some children who are recognised as vulnerable. Throughout the day yesterday, we spent time identifying those children and I am writing today to confirm our arrangements for the education of these children and all children set to remain at home. I will also address some other practical issues around safeguarding and free school meals.

1. Education of key worker and vulnerable children:

This group of children have been identified using government guidance as far as possible and they will receive a separate letter confirming arrangements for Monday 23rd March.

The arrangements for these children are as follows:

- All children accessing the school based provision are to go to come to St Martin's as usual.
- The provision will be available from 7.45 am to 5pm
- Staffing of this provision will be made up of colleagues from St Martin's alongside colleagues from other Trust schools
- Parents will be responsible for all transport to and from the provision in a way that is safe and maintains appropriate social distancing
- There will be no catering provided. Students must bring a packed lunch and snacks even if they are entitled to free school meals as a voucher system will be provided to fund these provisions

2. Free School Meals

We will be implementing a voucher scheme to all families where there is an entitlement to free school meals. This will be issued to parents / carers by email and more details on this will follow next week. The first voucher will come to you by email by Friday 27th March and will be issued weekly thereafter. *(Please make sure that we have an up to date email address for you.)*

3. Education at home

We have already provided work for children to continue their education at home responding to this unprecedented challenge. It is very likely that the period of school shutdown will be very lengthy. As we progress through the weeks ahead we will continue to develop our home



education offer, but in the short term it is important that children establish the routine required to work at home and that as parents and carers we insist that they do so. Therefore:

- Ensure your child follows their school timetable
- Ensure they are up, showered and ready to work from the start of the school day to the end of the school day
- As part of your child's routine, ensure there is a place for exercise. There are plenty of online routines

Please take time to play games with your children and read with them every day for at least two 15 minute periods (primary) / talk with them about the book they are reading.

4. SATs:

The government have announced that they will work with the exams regulator to ensure that students get the qualifications and assessment outcomes they need and deserve in order to proceed to the next stage of education. We are waiting on details as to how this will be done and stand ready to respond to all requests and will work hard to ensure a just outcome to all our students who have worked so hard over the course of their studies.

5. Safeguarding

It is very important that we all play our part in keeping children safe. If you have any concerns about the welfare of any child in school please call the Local Authority safeguarding team on: **01582 547653**. They will contact the school leaders. Key staff across the school will maintain contact with families who need support throughout the period of shutdown.

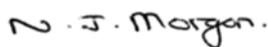
6. Communication:

I will continue to issue a weekly briefing to all parents and carers. This briefing will update you on any changes to our weekly provision and, in time, prepare us for the time when we re-start our school year.

I would like to send each one of you my very best wishes for the weeks ahead. None of this is easy and we are going to miss the children greatly during our time apart. We will do our best to support you and would ask that you keep in touch, especially with regard to the welfare of your children.

With every blessing

Yours sincerely



Mrs N J Morgan

