



31 March 2020

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a very challenging week for everyone since we entered lockdown and, as we all know, the next few weeks, and even months, are likely to be the same. I think we would hope that in terms of routines and arrangements in schools, things will begin to settle down. Whilst we all appreciate the work that those within the NHS are doing and will continue to do, it must be said that you and your staff are also doing a wonderful job protecting the most vulnerable and indeed putting yourselves at risk. This is recognised by the Bishop who I know has sent a message to you all.

I am conscious that schools are being inundated with regular updates and information from the DFE and LA and therefore as a diocese it is difficult to know what we can provide and do to support you, without duplicating work already being undertaken. What I can say is that we are here for you, and please if there is anything we can do just phone or email. We have tried to establish a picture of what provision is being provided by our schools, in order to be able to keep the Bishop aware of what was happening in his schools. Whilst he is in isolation so to speak, he likes to keep in regular contact with me and the other heads of department. Apologies if this has caused anyone any additional work or proved to be inconvenient.

Despite the office being closed, everyone is beavering away including finding time to tidy up all those data bases and files we store, and Ann Fowler informs me that all those currently on the CCRS programme are catching up and submitting the essays they have not had time to do!

Any general information that we feel needs to be communicated will be put on the website, and not sent directly to you, in order to keep your email box to a minimum. However, there may be some information or queries that do need to be addressed. One of the key ones is that related to your admissions policy, as some of those sent in are not fully compliant. Where this has occurred Bill will need to make individual contact, but this will be done after Easter.

With children at home we are all aware of the risk many children are going to be open to related to using the internet. Here are some links to assist parents in keeping their children safe if you feel it would be useful to put on your websites:

https://www.internetmatters.org/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIktuA5LWK2wIVRYXVCh2afg2aEAAYASAAEgIJ5vD_BwE

<http://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers>

Please also see

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zjgkq6f> - Good Friday and story of the Easter egg. Activities could include children painting and designing hard boiled eggs as decoration, or children making an Easter garden.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zy2hyrd> Palm Sunday Activities - children make their own palms, research the palm tree, explain the reason why Palms were used at the time of Jesus to welcome him, and how we welcome important people to events today. Write a live news report of Jesus entering Jerusalem or even record one. Research an important person arriving at an event.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zkyr87h> Last Supper Activities - Draw or paint a picture of the Last Supper and label who was there. Research the Disciples that were there.

<https://games.settlestories.org.uk/downtherabbithole/?fbclid=IwAR0fi1jD9ATYZOfLFusu4beU7h1WpkMf-LCD7phaZfMXs7Ybw0N0E2EIYBw-> An interactive video linked to Alice in wonderland with a theme of choices and appreciating what we have. (KS2)

In the meantime, remember what Isaiah says:

*Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*

Colleen Collett
Director