

St Mary's Lewisham CE Primary School

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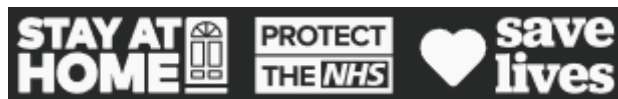
"St Mary's is a good school" - Ofsted July 2016

Our Vision

To be a learning community that promotes the unique gifts, wellbeing and potential of every person. Our work is founded on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, building on His message of equality, peace and justice, guided by His words 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34).



Friday 3rd April 2020



<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus: School Closure Update

I hope that you, your family and friends are all safe and well. All school staff and I are well. Please can I thank each of you for the amazing job you are doing in keeping your children at home.

I am delighted to inform you that we have continued to keep the school open for our critical workers and have been selected to become a Lewisham 'Hub'. Lewisham Hubs are schools that will remain open throughout the duration of the Covid 19 crisis. Hubs will also accommodate the children of critical workers from other schools when their school needs to close. This has happened to several schools in Lewisham and last week the staff and children from St Saviour's Primary School Lewisham successfully moved into St Mary's Hub.

I have spoken with many of you over the past week and have carefully listened to your concerns about your children's education and wellbeing. I would like to reassure you that school staff and I will continue to be on hand to support you through these challenging times.

Please can I ask you to keep the school up to date with any concerns you have regarding your children's mental health and wellbeing. If your child is finding it hard to cope with the changes to their lives, or a family member is ill or has died, please let us know. St Mary's school are here to work with you to support our children's emotional needs in any way that we can and we are also preparing a list of places where families can find additional support.

School staff will be in touch with all of our families over the next few weeks to find out how you and your children are doing. If you need to speak with us in the meantime, please telephone the school office on 0208 6902613 or email us on the following link admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk.

Free School Meal vouchers

Many of our families received an Asda food voucher from St Mary's because their children are eligible for a free school meal. The government have recently announced a 'term time' £15 food voucher scheme for all pupils who are entitled to a free school meal. We are in the process of accessing this voucher and will send them out to eligible families at the beginning of the summer term. I am conscious that some families may not know whether they are entitled to free school meals so we are encouraging all of our families to apply by following this link:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/education/student-pupil-support/free-school-meals-and-extra-support-for-your-child>



St Mary's is an Excellent School



In addition to the government term-time vouchers, I have personally made the decision to provide additional support, recognising the challenge that many of our families face at this time. St Mary's school have chosen to provide weekly £10 vouchers during the Easter holidays for each child who is entitled to a free school meal.

Home Learning Update

I hope that you have continued to enjoy your home schooling. Please visit our website class pages: <http://www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk/classes/> for details and links to the Home Learning Packs and Useful Websites. Please ring the school with any questions regarding home learning or email admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk.

Send us your Home Learning photos!

We are setting up a weekly celebration of the children's Home Learning on the school website class pages, and so if there is anything that your child is extremely proud of, please email it to the school office, as we would love to be able to share this! The easiest way is to take a photo and send it to admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk.

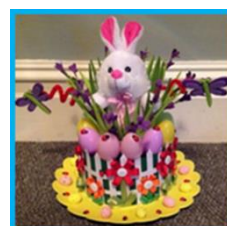
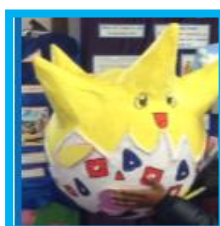
Easter Holidays

The Easter holidays run from Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April. Whilst we won't expect the children to be completing the home learning packs during this period, it is important that you continue with some regular learning activities. This is especially important whilst families are being asked to remain at home – we would recommend keeping some structure and routines. Here are some learning ideas for the holidays:

- Continue to hear your child read every day and read them lots of stories
- Enjoy cooking some healthy meals together, write the recipe and measure the ingredients
- Take your daily exercise outside wherever possible (keeping 2 metres from other people) and look out for signs of Spring and new life: birds, animals, plants and (hopefully) some sunshine!
- Write letters to friends and family, or keep a diary
- Reception and KS1 - logon to 'Teach Your Monster to Read' and practise your phonics
- KS2 - logon to 'IXL' and practise your maths and literacy
- Visit the school website class page and try out some of the amazing online learning that we have created links to: <http://www.st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk/classes/>
- Enter our amazing Easter competition (see below)



Easter Egg and Bonnet competition 2020



We invite you to take part in our competition to decorate an Easter egg or an Easter bonnet! Choose a theme and decorate an egg or a hat - be as creative as you like! Photos of all entries should be sent to admin@st-marys.lewisham.sch.uk by Friday 17th April. There will be some great prizes to be won and all entries will be displayed on our website!

On behalf of all of the staff and governors, please can I wish you and your family health, peace and safety at Easter and over the coming weeks. Everyone in the St Mary's School Community will continue to keep every family in our thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely

Christine Bernard, Headteacher

