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Learning and Loving, Caring and Sharing
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YSGOL GYNRADD Y SANTES FAIR
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Mrs R F Acton B.Ed Hons, NPQH
Headteacher/Pennaeth

30.3.20

Update to Parents 1

Dear Parents/ Carers,

These are very strange times for us all and I do hope you and your families are keeping well and staying safe. I intend to write to parents at the beginning of each week to provide you with any relevant updates and to 'check in' with all families. I will also endeavour to provide you with any additional information from WCBC and the Welsh Government as we receive it.

Each morning, I will send a '**Mrs Acton's Thought for the day**' and '**Let us Pray**' sheet via Seesaw for you to share with your child. Prayer and reflection is a very important part of each school day in St Mary's, and I hope that the children will be able to continue to lead prayer and reflection at home, particularly at this difficult time. All the children are well used to setting up for collective worship and meditation in school, and there are a number of links to reflective music on the website in addition to examples of the main traditional prayers we teach/ recite in school. (**Please see 'Collective Worship/ Prayer section.'**) As a school community, I encourage all families to join together in prayer at this difficult time and to support Pope Francis in his pledge to pray for those affected by the Coronavirus and for an end to the current crisis.

As you will already be aware, today we have started our '**Remote Learning Plans**' in all classes. As previously mentioned, this is new to all of us; children, parents and staff alike. With this in mind, we will take things slowly and steadily and I really do not wish for any child, parent or teacher to feel any pressure or to worry about anything. Your child's well-being (and your well-being as a parent) is most important and if things are getting too much, put the school work away and take a break, get some fresh air, do some physical activity, play a game, read a book, bake a cake. With every experience, there is an opportunity to learn new skills. Balance is key. We are all in this together and we must remember that learning happens in many different ways.

Seesaw is the main way that teachers will communicate with children and parents. I thank you all so much for your continued support and engagement with this and really do appreciate how you have adapted to our new ways of working. The



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teachers will provide a weekly overview of home learning experiences for the children and will give daily activities, feedback and support, as required and as soon as possible under the circumstances. In addition, if you need any additional support, advice from me, please do not hesitate to email the school and I will do my best to help in any way I can.

There is also a new section on the school website '**School Closure Learning Zone**' where any additional information for parents is also held i.e. useful websites, Apps etc. for each year group. This will be updated as any new information and resources become available. In addition, if you think of any further resources that may be useful, I am only too happy to add them to the school website. Please just send me an email outlining your request.

Twitter and Instagram will also be used to share news, experiences and information so if you have not already joined/ followed us, please do so **@stmaryswxm**.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to extend my sincere gratitude to all members of staff for their incredible hard work and support over the past couple of weeks. They have worked tirelessly to provide a continuity of learning for all our children, both in terms of an exciting range of learning experiences for all children, but also by ensuring that all children have access to the resources they are used to using in class. I am so proud of them all and wish to thank them all. What a fantastic St Mary's team!

Furthermore, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support, understanding, cooperation and prayers. Your kind words of support have truly meant the world at this extremely challenging time for us all. I am very blessed to be Headteacher of such a wonderful, caring and supportive community.

Please continue to pray for our whole school family. Stay safe and keep in touch. I would love to receive emails, letters, pictures from children as well! God bless you all.

Kindest regards

R F Acton

Mrs R F Acton

Headteacher