

# Newsletter 25: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a very strange week for us all; we are in a situation we could never have predicted. I'm very sad that we are closing the school for most children this afternoon. The children have been amazing and we will miss them all very much. We hope that we can all be together again as soon as possible.

We are getting our resources ready for home learning, which can be accessed through the school website, under Learning/Year Group Pages. Here is the link:

<http://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/page/?title=Year+Group+Pages&pid=95>

The school will still remain open for those children of critical workers. Thank you to those of you who have already responded. Please see the latest government guidance and complete the Parentmail Form or get in touch with me as soon as possible if you think that this applies to you.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We have tried to keep things as normal as possible this week and making the most of our time together. Our Year 6 children spent the day at the Wintershall Estate on Wednesday where they walked the Way of the Cross. They all appreciated spending time together in such a beautiful place.

Today the children are enjoying their last day with their friends and teachers; we have our Easter Egg Hunt after lunch and Year R Mothers' Day celebration to look forward to this afternoon.

Mrs Higgins



**The Great Indoors!** – Father Jonathan, who has had years of involvement with the Scouts, has very kindly sent us this useful link from the Scouts website about a wide variety of ideas for indoor activities.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>



**The Last Mass** – on Wednesday Father Jonathan celebrated what was the final public Mass in the parish for the foreseeable future. The occasion was both beautiful and painful as we reflected upon the loss to the community of faithful of the Mass and the Eucharist which form the bedrock of our lives. But Jesus tells us that *“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word which comes from the mouth of God”* (Matt 4:4), and he therefore points us, in this time of sacramental famine, to the wisdom of the Bible and, particularly, his own words as he speaks to us in the Gospels. The Mass came at a timely moment: it fell upon the Solemnity of St Joseph, protector not only of the Church, but of fathers and families. We prayed in a special way for all families of our school. Attached is the really wonderful sermon which Fr Jonathan delivered that day – we do urge you to read it carefully.

**Headteacher's Blog** – every Friday Mrs Higgins writes about what has been happening in school during the week in her Headteacher's Blog in the website. Do remember to have a look every week to keep yourselves up to date by clicking on this link. <https://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/blog/?pid=14&nid=10>

**Ethos Statement 21:** I know that it is OK for me to make mistakes

**We pray together:** Father, remembering that you forgive us when we make mistakes, help us to forgive and be patient with those around us who make mistakes. We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN

**The Pope Speaks:** In this moment of crisis because of the pandemic we are experiencing, nearness asks to be manifested even more. Perhaps we cannot draw near physically to others because of the fear of contagion, but we can reawaken in ourselves an attitude of nearness amongst us, through prayer and through help. There are many ways of drawing near.



**St Francis de Sales speaks:** “Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me, but in me and I in Him.”

Attachment: Fr Jonathan's homily