



Archdiocese of Birmingham  
**St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School and Nursery**  
Head Teacher: Mr A Crehan



Yatesbury Avenue, Castle Vale, Birmingham, B35 6LB

Thursday 26th March 2020

Dear Parents,

I can hardly believe it has been just a week since I last wrote to you - so much has happened. I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and safe in your homes.

I wanted to keep you as updated as I can on what is happening at school at the moment. As you know, I made the difficult decision to close last week as the school could not operate safely with the number of staff we had. The Department for Education then asked schools to essentially change the way we operate, and to use our facilities to offer childcare for keyworkers who are critical to the fight against the virus, and to any vulnerable children. Since Monday, staff of St Gerard's have been working hard to make sure that this had been carried out to support those families. We have also been able to offer packed lunches to families who are entitled to free school meals with the support of our catering company. The guidance and directives from the government have been changing on nearly a daily basis for this and if anything changes, I will keep you updated.

During the week, we have had many calls and messages about the future. I have no information about when schools will be back to normal - this is impossible for anyone to predict at this stage. As a result of this uncertainty, I cannot say if the children will make their First Confession or First Holy Communion and I can only hope and pray that we get to see our Year 6 leavers before the end of July. Know that we are as upset about these things as you; the children of St Gerard's are deeply a part of our lives too. We do know that all assessments including the Year 1 Phonics Screening, the Year 4 Times Table Check, and KS1 and KS2 SATs have been cancelled. If you have any questions about Secondary Admissions, you will need to speak to the Birmingham Local Education Authority or your child's future school for advice – we have no information about this.

Hopefully you will be familiar with our school website. There is now a new tab, called 'Home Learning'. All of the children, across the world, will need to catch up on work after this period of time, and your child's teacher will expertly manage this when we are back in school. There are some ideas, useful websites and work for your child on this page but please do not feel obligated to emulate school at home. Your child will have picked up on the news about this virus and is most likely concerned and confused at this time. For me, their mental health is the most important thing at this time, and I would recommend to just talk with them, play with them, read with them and pray with them.

I speak for all the staff of St Gerard's when I say, we miss you all, we are thinking and praying for you and your families and we hope to see you again soon.

God bless.

**A Crehan**  
Headteacher



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