



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This period has been challenging for everyone and we hope you're all adjusting well in these difficult circumstances.

We wanted to get in touch with all our parents/carers keeping their children at home to let you know about our approach to home learning and what we're expecting from you and your children.

Our amazing staff have been working hard to make sure we can continue to provide education for your children. As a reminder, our current approach is:

Each class teacher is producing home learning packs for the children to complete. These are accessed via the school website and are also emailed to parents. These will be updated fortnightly. Some of tasks set link to previous learning and are good revision; some are set for the children to apply previous learning to new topics. Some tasks are research based and allow creativity of how this work is presented. In KS2, timetables have also been sent home to parents to support you structure your child's day. There is no expectation that everything in the home learning pack is completed. RE is an important part of our curriculum and we would encourage that your child completes what they can of the tasks set. Children will benefit from being with their families, out in their gardens, cooking and reading. We would encourage you to hear your child read everyday and develop a love for reading. If they don't want to read to you, you could read to them. Reading develops the children's imaginations and therefore benefits their writing. We have and will also continue to send you free daily online learning events that we feel are relevant for your children to take part in.

In the coming days, we will also be sending a link and password home for the children to access 'Seesaw' – an online platform where teachers and children can share their learning. This will allow the children to communicate with their class teacher and upload work that they have done. Please make sure that your child logs onto Seesaw as soon as they can as other activities will be available on there too.

We hope you can understand that we can't deliver the same sort of education we do when the school is fully open, but your children won't miss out by not being in school at the moment. We've tried to keep everyone's workloads – both pupils learning at home and those in school – comparable, appropriate and realistic during this turbulent period.

Please don't worry about your children getting behind with learning. Everyone's in the same boat, and when things get back to normal, we'll make sure we get everyone back on track.



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You may have seen different approaches from other schools in the news, such as providing live lessons online. We decided not to do this because:

We know that some families in our community don't have the technology/time/circumstances at home to support this kind of learning at the moment, so we're focusing on supporting pupils to learn in the most widely accessible ways possible. Also, some of our teachers have their own care responsibilities at home, such as their own young children, and it can be difficult to fit these around live lessons.

We'll continue to review how we deliver home learning, so we'll let you know if we decide to change our approach.

The government has pulled together a helpful list of websites (the link is below) to support learning at home, which have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts. They offer a wide range of support and resources for pupils of all ages. They are currently being offered for free.

The list includes subject-specific resources for:

- [English](#)
- [maths](#)
- [science](#)
- [PE](#)
- [wellbeing](#)
- [Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

Individual resources cannot replace a school's properly planned curriculum, and the resources in this list are not intended to do so. They may be useful for parents in considering how they could support their children's education, but they should not be used in place of existing resources which schools may be using as part of their continued provision for pupils' education at this time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

If you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by ringing school on 01332 572154 or by emailing us [admin@stjohnfisher.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnfisher.derby.sch.uk)

If you're finding it hard at home with your child and are struggling to cope, call [Family Lives](#) for free, confidential advice on **0808 800 2222**.

If you're worried about the safety of another child in our community, call the [NSPCC](#) on **0808 800 5000**. Or call the police on **999** if you think a child is in immediate danger.



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If you're concerned about the symptoms of the virus please find advice for those with symptoms or living with someone with symptoms on the NHS website online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

We're extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from the school community.

Yours sincerely

Sean McClafferty  
CEO

P. Ackers, A. Brett, P. Harlow

Mr Ackers, Mrs Brett & Mrs Harlow  
School Leadership Team