

*It feels very strange writing this letter to you from a quiet school that is usually filled with the hustle and bustle of busy children. However, as you will be aware school is currently closed due to government advice. However, I wanted to send this newsletter as we are now technically at the end of the Spring term. We are currently not aware when schools will re-open and we will let you know of this as soon as we are aware of the directive from government. I know that this is a very difficult time for many families, both financially and emotionally. There is a great deal of anxiety. However, as a school community, we must continue to support each other through our thoughts and prayers. Please remember that as a school staff we are supporting children of key workers but we are also thinking of all families in our school community. We miss you all and look forward to coming together again soon to continue the day to day business of teaching and learning. In the meantime, please keep safe and look after each other as much as possible. Thank you.*

**Google Classroom:** Thank you to everyone who has been accessing the google classroom to find work for pupils. This forum is the place where all work will be set by teachers and where work can be submitted where appropriate. It is also possible for children and parents to communicate with individual teachers in this way. We can see that the vast majority of pupils have accessed google classroom or have received work on paper where this was requested. If you are having any problems accessing google classroom, please phone the school office or e-mail [enquiries@st-elizabeths.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-elizabeths.staffs.sch.uk) and a message will be sent to individual teachers who may phone you directly to discuss the issue.

**Activities at home:** Our teachers are setting work on-line for pupils for parents and pupils to access each day if they wish. Feedback suggests that parents and pupils are finding this helpful. However, I am sure that you are also finding lots of other interesting things to do as a family, eg, games, crafts etc. We would very much appreciate any photos of your family activities being sent to [enquiries@st-elizabeths.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-elizabeths.staffs.sch.uk) and we will put some together to share in our next newsletter. Thank you.

**Financial support:** It is still possible to apply for free school meals for pupils if you find yourself in financial difficulty over this period of school closure. This might be particularly relevant if your employment has changed as a result of the measures out in place due to Coronavirus. If accepted, this will ensure you receive a food parcel or a food voucher to support you provide meals for your child during the closure and free meals for your child on their return to school. Please use the following link to see the criteria: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> You may also find it useful to contact the parish about the HOT foodbank if needed.

**Catholic life:** Whilst we are social distancing at home, you may wish to join Fr Michael and Fr Sinru for their live streamed Mass each Sunday at 10am from St John's. This can be found on Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZE8wtGK3hz8> Also, CAFOD are providing a Sunday liturgy for pupils to be found on their website.



**Pope Francis says:**

"We are one human family. Let us bring all hostilities to a halt. May our joint fight against the Covid-19 pandemic bring everyone to recognise the great need to reinforce brotherly and sisterly bonds."

**PRAYER**

God, we trust that you are good and do good. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love. Glorify his name as you equip us with everything needed for doing your will. Amen