



St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and that the first week of pupils working at home rather than in school has gone smoothly. Thank you to all the pupils who are completing work and to you the parents, carers and family members supporting them. Thank you also to the staff who are setting and responding to work.

In the coming weeks we will be looking at how to showcase some of the work being completed and also to develop some school wide competitions and community focused activities that pupils can be involved in from home. We want to ensure our pupils continue to feel they belong to St Bernadette's and that we continue to share and celebrate their achievements. If you have any new ideas about how we can do this, please do let us know.

Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope announced that today on Friday, 27 March, he will preside over a moment of prayer at the top of the steps of St Peter's Basilica. Pope Francis said, "I invite everyone to participate spiritually through the means of communication." The ceremony will consist in readings from the Scriptures, prayers of supplication, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; and will conclude with Pope Francis giving the *Urbi et orbi* Blessing, with the possibility of gaining a plenary indulgence for all those who listen to it live through the various forms of communication. The blessing "to the City of Rome and to the World" is normally only given at Christmas and Easter.

The live broadcast can be watched on the Vatican News You Tube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7E-LYc1wivk33iyt5bR5zQ>

"Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading."

The government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend. The government guidance is that "If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading." Thank you for your support with this. We appreciate all you are doing.

The school continues to be open for children with a parent or carer who is listed on the government's [critical worker list](#) and to children who are vulnerable and for whom no other arrangements can be made.

If you fall into these categories and need to send your child to school please email the school info@stberns.bristol.sch.uk and provide details of the dates on which your child will be in

school. If you are able to do this on a weekly basis that will be helpful. We do however appreciate that in these challenging times, the need to go into work and shifts may change at short notice. If this is the case, please let us know the day before your child attends, so that we can ensure appropriate staffing levels. Thank you.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Bristol will now be emailing vouchers to parents of children entitled to free school meals. The first vouchers should arrive on Tuesday/ Wednesday of next week and will cover next week and the Easter holidays. If you have not provided us with an email address or do not have one, you will need to collect the vouchers from school. We will contact you once we receive them.

I hope that in these challenging times you can take some comfort in the support of others and are also able to offer support to those in need. Enjoy the weekend as best you can.

Best wishes

Mrs McLaughlin