



St. Columbas Catholic Primary School

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"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10: 10)



Dear Parents,

I hope you are all as well as can be expected during this time of fear and uncertainty. The staff of St Columba's are all thinking of you all during this time. I hope you are managing to keep yourself and your family as safe as possible.

I have already heard of a few cases in our school community where the virus has unfortunately taken lives of members of our families or friends and I feel deeply saddened to hear this news. My thoughts and prayers are with these families at this time and always; our community is there for you even though we cannot see you. I fear things will sadly get worse before they begin to get better.

Fr Manny has just spoken at Mass today about 'Super Heroes', he mentioned Spiderman and Superman and the powers they have. The main thing he mentioned was that they look after those in need and we can clearly see from the media that we are surrounded by so many heroes at this time. It was emotional and wonderful to see everyone clapping at 8pm last night for our needed workers. Anyone who looks after the vulnerable is a hero in my eyes.

You, our parents are also heroes in our society as you are looking after your vulnerable families and trying to protect them at all costs whilst also no doubt worrying about work, shopping and money. You are trying to smile and put on a brave face in front of your little ones and will be masking your own anxiety to protect them. I am guessing some of you will be panicking and concerned about home schooling and education, please do not let this worry you as all children are in the same situation. I too am worried that my child will not see another child for months and only has me and his dad to play with. There is of course nothing we can do about this other than try to be strong, happy and positive role models for our children. We are all in this together

Let us not forget that our children are also heroes, they have had to deal with an enormous life change in the past few weeks and I know some of them will be struggling with lack of routine, not seeing friends, possibly worrying and feeling bored. Children are resilient and will be fine as long as we are all there to support them and show them they are loved. I know Jack is my hero at the moment as he is keeping me going with his fun, energy and laughter. I am literally exhausted playing all day! I too like the rest of you am running out of things to do. Most of us are spending precious time with our children and this is worth more to them than school work, just being together and playing and talking is the best support we could possibly give them. Cherish this time no matter how stressed you may feel.

I know our staff are keeping in touch with you all through social media and I want to thank them for their work. Some of our staff are working in the 'Hubs' on a rota to try to support people where they can. Our staff are also worried about their own families and aging parents; they are missing seeing our wonderful children and are finding this hard. My thoughts are with them too as life at the moment is not easy for anyone.

Next week is obviously Easter and I ask you all to take comfort in the fact that Jesus takes his long and difficult journey to the cross (a bit like us all at this time.) But there is hope as he rises again (like us too when we reach the end of this current situation).

I am obviously unsure what will happen in the next few weeks and months but will keep you all updated as best I can.

I think when we do return to school a part of us all will be changed ever so slightly and our outlook on life will be different. I hope and pray that as many of us as possible will remain safe throughout this time.

With love and prayers to all in our precious school community.

Mrs O'Donnell