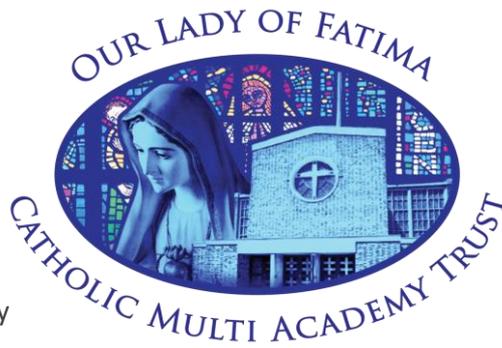




St. Alban's Catholic Academy
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Harlow
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CM20 2NP

Tel: (01279) 425383
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Executive Headteacher: Mr I Kendal B.Ed. (Hons), M.A., NPQH
Chair of Governors: Mr G Reynolds BSc FCMA



St. Luke's Catholic Academy
Pyenest Road
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CM19 4LU

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Friday, 20 March 2020

Dear Parents,

Today is a very sad day for our children as our community will be drastically changed over the next few months. We say goodbye to our children in the knowledge we may not see them for some time. I anticipate the children will return in September; however we all hope the children will return earlier.

“Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone. The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love.” Pope Francis

The school will remain open to provide childcare for those children who **absolutely need to attend** and their parents are **Key Workers** for example NHS workers. Those who are eligible will receive a letter from the school shortly.

Do not bring your child to school unless you have received confirmation from the **school** that you can attend. It is the school that determines this, not your employer.

The government is taking this drastic step because sending your child into school is putting your child at risk of contracting Covid-19, which will then spread to the entire community. Children are ‘super spreaders’ of the virus, the more children we have in school the greater the risk of Covid-19 spreading.

Free school meals, we will continue to provide meals for the children who are at school during lunchtime. If your child is not at school, and are registered for Free School Meals, a packed lunch will be prepared for your child next week for you to collect, (we will make arrangements for a ‘non contact’ collection). We will review this at the end of next week and will contact you directly.

Year 6 children, this is not goodbye, you may be instructed to return before the end of summer...If not we will invite you back into school in September for an afternoon/evening mass and celebration. Hoodies, we will make arrangements for these to be delivered to you when they come into us.

School Photos and Money returned. As you can imagine this is an extremely testing time for our school offices. Any money refunds will be completed in due course, and before Easter. Once we receive the school photos we will post them to your home address.

Contact, we are a strong school community, throughout this period of absence we may make contact with you, to see if you and the children are well. Please do not be surprised by our call.

Support Please do email the school or your class teacher, if you need anything. We will then call you back to see how we can help. If you are struggling please let us know. We have food bank vouchers, classroom resources, pens and ideas.

Other points of note: (as per yesterday's letter)

Parent Consultation will be cancelled, we will prepare annual reports which will be emailed to you next term. Other Parent meetings will be cancelled.

Home Learning During this period of absence from school we hope learning will continue, it is important to the Trust that learning at home does not become a battle or a negative activity. You know your children and what they can manage. We recommend following a similar daily structure, this will help the children enjoy a routine.

We have created a 'Home Learning' page on our website – At the top of the 'Our Learning' tab you will find a Home Learning Link In the event of class/school closure the webpage will be populated with learning resources from next week and updated regularly. We are unable to mark or assess the learning the children undertake at home. We have/will discuss home learning with your children in school to ensure they can access the internet, know how to log on, and know how important it is.

Your child will be given an exercise book and a pencil, which they utilise over the period of absence. If you need more resources, please email your class teacher.

Emails: Your child's class teacher can be contacted by email using the following address:

Name of year group then a for St Albans or L for St Luke's for example:

eyfsA@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk Or eyfsL@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk

Year1A@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk Or

Year1L@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk

And so on... There is one exception: Due to technical difficulties Year 3 at St Luke's has had to follow a different formula – year3luke@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk

All Staff, if well, will be in school working, they will monitor the emails once a day and reply as soon as possible.

Medication and personal belongings: Please collect all your child's medication, P.E kits and forest school clothes.

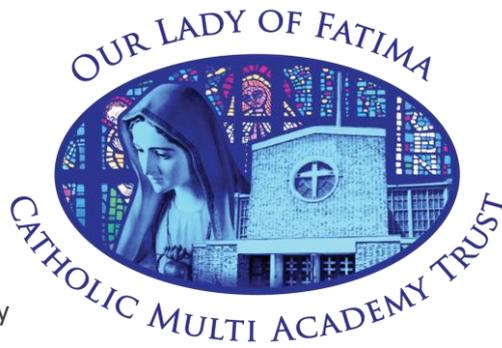
Twitter and Arbor Messages: We will communicate with you regularly please keep an eye on our messages.





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Nursery: We will be keeping out nursery staff open for Key workers, at present. We may have to close the nursery if our nursery staff become unwell.

Contact details – You will have received a text from us today regarding updating your details, this is very important. If you know of a parent who is not receiving messages, please ask them to update their details as a matter of urgency. Will you also ensure we have your updated phone contacts.

Contact We are a strong school community, throughout this period of absence we may make contact with you to see if you and the children are well and if there is anything you need. Please do not be surprised by our call.

FoodBanks are running perilously low on stock. If you can donate any resources to help the most needy, we will be please to pass this on.

Elderly neighbours, please do check on your neighbours and offer any support you can during the proposed period of self-isolation.

Please be assured of our prayer and please do keep in touch with the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Ian Kendal
Executive Headteacher