

Headteacher

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Dear Parents

Thank you for your support for everyone at this time. It is the overall wellbeing, physical, mental and spiritual, of each member of this community and the wider community that is at the forefront of everything we are trying to do.

Contacting the school

If you need to contact the school then please email your daughter's Key Stage Coordinator. I would ask you though to think carefully about whether it is necessary, or, if possible delay the email for a few days. It may well be that the answer to your query becomes evident as we all adjust to new ways of working. The Key Stage Coordinators have up to 480 students with whom they each work: if each family attempts to make contact each day then this will clearly be unmanageable.

Be aware that your daughter has the facility to ask her teacher questions through Google classroom so this can be helpful for questions about work and will avoid the need to contact the Key Stage Coordinator.

Please be mindful also in the current circumstances that staff may be self-isolating or have their own difficulties. I would encourage you above all else to be understanding and caring, not demanding and difficult. There are far too many other demands and difficulties facing each one of us the moment and kindness conquers all.

Work for students

Work for all students is being set via Google Classroom and Kerboodle (see the letter sent on 20 March), including work for Years 11 and 13. We are mindful that students in these years will need to consolidate their learning, whether as academic learning ready for the sixth form and for university, or as practical or transferrable skills. We will continue to update Google Classroom with new materials, tools and resources as they are made available to schools.

There may be some work set that your daughter finds she cannot access, whether because of broadband speeds or because of lack of access to particular programs. She can contact her teacher for advice but should also consider other ways of accessing similar content: many text books are being provided free online while schools are closed. Your daughter may enjoy learning about a topic from a different book or online site. Everyone's learning will vary at this time. Please help your daughter to avoid being anxious about this natural variation – the next section will help!





Family well-being page on the Coloma Website.

We have established a Coloma Family Well-Being page on the website to help support you while the school is closed. It can be found under the 'School life' tab or accessed using the following link.

<https://www.coloma.croydon.sch.uk/family-well-being/>

It will provide more information about accessing work as well as many other ideas. Again, please be patient: more items will be added over the coming days.

Collecting materials from school

Since the school closed on Friday there has obviously been much stronger advice about social distancing which means our original plans for collecting work are no longer appropriate.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

You should only leave the house for 1 of 4 reasons:

- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible
- one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle – alone or with members of your household
- any medical need, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person
- travelling to and from work, but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home.

If your daughter's books are in school then be aware that there is plenty of work being sent as detailed above: collecting your daughter's materials should not be regarded as a necessity. Please consider very carefully that each unnecessary trip or social transaction may be putting someone in danger and leaving the NHS less able to cope. If you still feel that collecting your daughter's materials is critical then please contact your daughter's Key Stage Coordinator and they will send you the form which you will need to return to the Key Stage Coordinator.

Lord's Prayer at 11am

I hope that you were able to join in the Lord's prayer at 11am this morning when the Pope encouraged all Catholics to join together. The very small number of staff and students in school formed a large circle on the lawn (observing social distancing) in order to join in the worldwide prayer, and added prayers for their own families and for the whole Coloma community. We will be continuing to pray in school every day. We know that a strong spiritual life and a real generosity of spirit will continue to be so important.

My very best wishes to you all,

Mrs Collins
Headteacher