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**Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Luke Chapter 24**

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Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you all had a good Easter holiday – whatever that means during a lockdown! We know that many of you miss seeing friends and family and we certainly miss seeing children from St Nic's!

We have not been able to celebrate the Easter story in our assemblies and services this year due to the lockdown. Our circumstances may have changed, but the story of peace and reconciliation with God remains the same. We hope that you have enjoyed our 'Awesome Assemblies' and explored various churches who are streaming their services and/or providing thoughts and prayers for the day.

As we morph into the start of the summer term, we realise it may feel a bit like 'Groundhog Day' – again. However we will continue to try to 'Journey together, guided by God, to do the best we can'. We continue to work hard on plans, timetables, curriculum development, budgets and fun for the year ahead. We are also planning for when we open the school again and can say 'hello' on the school gate.

See you soon!

Mr Etherton, Mr Lincoln and all the staff at St Nic's.

## 1. COMMUNICATION

- **Emails:** please use the [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk) to contact the school with any queries. Email is now our main form of communication and due to the high volume we are receiving please be aware that you may not get an immediate response!
- **Dates & Events:** all events have been cancelled until further notice.
- **Letters sent home this week:** Click on the link to see past letters <http://www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Letters+Sent+Home&pid=56>
  - **17-04-20 Letter to children** - please read to your child(ren)

## 2. LET'S WORK TOGETHER

- **Keep in touch:** do keep in touch with the school about significant highs and lows that you and your family may be facing. We may be able to, help, point you in the direction of help or at least 'walk' with you in our thoughts and prayers. Email [office@stnm.org.uk](mailto:office@stnm.org.uk)
- **Change of circumstances:** We appreciate that some families may have a significant change of circumstances owing to the lockdown. You will be entitled to free healthy school meals for your children, whatever year they are in, (saving you more than £350 a year) if you receive any of the following:
  1. Income support or income-based Jobseekers Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
  2. The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
  3. Support from NASS National Asylum Support Service under Part 6 of Immigration & Asylum Act 1999.
  4. Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190 or less.)
  5. Universal Credit.

Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money (Pupil Premium)? For each child who is registered for free school meals, the school gets extra funding of £1320. Even if you don't want your child to have the school meals, as long as you qualify and are registered the school will still receive the extra funding, and will continue to do so even if your child is no longer eligible. This could be worth more than £9,000 to the school over a seven year period. If you would like to apply for pupil premium, please ask for an application form from the office or download it from the school website. If you have any questions, please be in touch.

## 3. WORSHIP & ETHOS:

- **Awesome Assemblies:** we've had 12,000 views and really positive feedback from our Awesome Assemblies. They start again on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April with Mr Badger making concrete and Mr Etherton chopping up a Christmas tree. The following week we will be looking at Tough Tortoise, Team Ant, Sensible Squirrel and Wise Owl (and Mr Badger of course!) Do let your child(ren) catch up with any that they may have missed at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVs\\_954b4yEOTi5sAhKhGKw?safe=true](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVs_954b4yEOTi5sAhKhGKw?safe=true)

- **Awesome Happy Birthday Video: TOP SECRET!!** We are aware that many children will not be able to celebrate their BIRTHDAY as you would like them to. Senior leaders (including of course Mr Badger) have assembled a fun 5 minute video wishing your child (when it is their birthday!) a very Happy Birthday. Please do NOT share this link, or show children this film, unless it is their birthday, or it will spoil the surprise for others! Click here: <https://youtu.be/WdrXKnmG9Po> This YouTube link is 'unlisted'. This means that children cannot find it unless you share the link with them!

#### 4. RAINBOW CLUB – childcare

- **Opening dates:** as things stand we do not intend to run Rainbow Club on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May (VE Day Bank Holiday) or Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May Spring Bank Holiday). However, we hope to run Rainbow Club during half term (excluding the Bank holiday) from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> (Unless the lockdown requirements are eased)
- **Big Thank You:** to staff who have run the Rainbow Club over the Easter 'holiday' so that key workers could get to work. Many staff have undertaken different roles from sorting out food to cleaning toilets to ensure that everything has run smoothly and safely!

#### 5. CURRICULUM

- **BBC Bitesize** Daily lessons coming soon... Beginning Monday 20 April, BBC Bitesize will publish daily online lessons for all ages. They'll also have a new dedicated TV channel full of learning content, podcasts on BBC Sounds and loads of educational video on iPlayer. We do not know how good these support packages will be but please take a look: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zn9447h> We will provide further advice/recommendations in due course once we have seen them ourselves!
- **Music – message from SAM Music:** please find below some information about SAM, our music tuition provider who has moved their service online! *"SAM is proud to present SAM Online! With 12 years experience delivering music education, we're excited to offer weekly individual 30 minute drum, guitar, piano and vocal lessons. Packages of 5 and 10 lessons are available using an easy and secure connection via our bespoke mySAM online lesson reporting platform. You can even pay for a taster lesson to try it out first. Instruments are available through our partner online store. To see our short promo video, contact us or for more info, please visit [www.sammusicservice.com](http://www.sammusicservice.com) Stay home and be inspired!"*
- **Keep fit** with our very own **Lenny and Rudi** – see links below!

#### 6. NEW: USEFUL HOME LEARNING LINKS AND RESOURCES

- [Useful Home Learning Links and Resources](#) (click on link) or go to our website Pupils > Useful home learning links and resources. Do check out all the resources and links we have!
- Online educational resources for schools and parents to help children to learn at home: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>
- Keep fit workouts produced by our very own Lenny and Rudi. They want to bring people together and keep people safe together by keeping fit at home. See their mum's YouTube channel, 'sofphit': [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5kSRwWlrWVn\\_MG8\\_Ew6xpyA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5kSRwWlrWVn_MG8_Ew6xpyA)

#### 7. HEALTH & SAFETY

- **Mental Health and Wellbeing advice:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>
- **Reminder re online safety: The DfE have advised:** Parents and carers may choose to supplement the school or college online offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. (We would therefore like to) emphasise the importance of securing online support from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online includes:
  - ❖ [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - ❖ [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - ❖ [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
  - ❖ [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
  - ❖ [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
  - ❖ [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers