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Headteacher: Mrs. L. Ashton

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

If these past few weeks have taught us anything it is how important family is and I would encourage all of us, if possible, to take some time off over the Easter break, watch your favourite films, play games, cook together and simply find as many opportunities as you can to relax and smile. I would suggest that you stop the home learning with your children and treat these next two weeks as much like a holiday as you can. If the children would like some creative Easter activities, these will be available on the Easter section of the website in the next few days.

As you know, the school is open over Easter, **ONLY** for the children of key workers who have no-one at home to look after them – please keep your children, your family, other children and our staff safe by keeping your child at home with you wherever possible. I know it can be difficult if you are working from home but we must all be responsible and think of others in this challenging time.

The school will not be open at all on Good Friday or Easter Monday.

If you are a key worker and have no one at home to look after your child(ren), following the bank holiday, please email [ourladyoflourdes@durhamlearning.net](mailto:ourladyoflourdes@durhamlearning.net) to let us know if you require childcare. Please can you also let us know if this would include the breakfast club facility.

Staff continue to work on developing home learning activities for the children and these will be ready to access on the website from the 20th April. Keep an eye on the website as we are adding a Home Learning link to our front page which we hope will make it easier to navigate the learning pages. The Home Learning link will take you directly to 'Class Doors' which will take you to individual class learning pages. Staff will share their email addresses with you on these class pages so that there is the facility for children to communicate with their teacher, sharing examples of work or photos of them taking part in lovely experiences or activities. Every teacher will write a letter to their class, after the Easter break, to give them an update on what they would like them to do.

It is indeed a challenging time for us all. Pope Francis, in his address to Italy said:

*"Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighbourhood; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty in the world. Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love,"*

Let us continue to do what we as a community are best at doing, and find ways of showing this generosity and love to one another during this difficult time.

Take care,

Mrs Ashton and the staff at Our Lady of Lourdes