

## **Important Diocesan Education Team Update #4, Tue 7 April 2020**

Dear Headteachers,

Thank you for still making sure that the children who are vulnerable and those whose parents are key workers are still able to be cared for in school despite this being the first week of what would have been your Easter holiday. During last week's 'clapping for our carers' on Thursday evening, I was particularly thinking of you as I stood on my doorstep applauding into the twilight. You, too, are on the frontline of our nation's fight against this insidious virus. Please pray for each other and remember the sadly increasing number of our diocesan church school families who are experiencing grief and loss as a result of Covid-19. We are reminded regularly that the worst is yet to come and more of us than we want to think about right now are going to be touched personally by the sadness that is gripping the world. We will need each other more than ever once we emerge from this.

Last week, I asked whether you would be prepared to lead your school family in a time of prayer and reflection at 11am this Thursday, Maundy Thursday. I have attached a prayer for you to use and it would be lovely if we, as the Church of England education family in Dudley and Worcestershire, were to join together in intercession for each other and for those who are caring for us. If you are able to take some photos of your school community 'gathering' in prayer do let us have them. It would be lovely to see you.

Please also note the recently published [DfE guidance](#) and updates below:

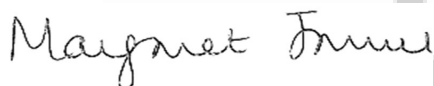
- [Ofqual guidance](#) on GCSEs, AS and A level awarding: Summer 2020.
- [Guidance](#) on calculating students' exam results during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as well as a letter from the Chief Regulator of Ofqual.
- [Guidance](#) on changes to newly qualified teacher (NQT) induction during the coronavirus (COVID-19).
- [Updated guidance](#) providing more information on vulnerable children attending education settings during the Easter holidays.
- [Updates](#) to the Vulnerable Children's Q&A:
- [Updated Q&A](#) on school closures, including:
  - Updated section on safeguarding to reflect interim published guidance
  - Clarification of specific inclusions in the key workers list
  - Change of wording on the flexibility schools have with regards to the curriculum to reflect the emergency Covid-19 Bill (schools won't be penalised where not delivering broad and balanced curriculum in this period)
  - An amend to the opening sentence to make clear that schools are open to both vulnerable children and children of critical workers. This is clear in the guidance, but had slipped from the opening para and has been reinstated.

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Also attached is a letter from Vicky Ford MP, Minister with responsibility for SEND.

Do keep in touch and remember that you are in our thoughts and prayers every day. We're here for you in whatever way we can help and please know that you can give either me (07500559783) or Tim Reid (07919274194) a ring at any time.

With best wishes,



**Dr Margaret James**  
**Diocesan Director of Education (DDE)**

