**Letter from bccs Director**

**16th April 2020**

Dear Father,

We hope that this email finds you well during this difficult time as parish communities worship at a distance and learn new ways to connect with their faith from home.

At bccs our priority has always been to keep children and families at the centre of our work and during this unprecedented time, this has never been more important.  We wanted to let you know that we are still here for these young people – we continue to keep in touch with schools and families via phone and video links and to offer help and support where we can during this period of lockdown.

Unfortunately, we anticipate that the need for our work is likely to increase once we come out of our current situation.  As you will be aware, this will be a very difficult time for many and especially for those children and young people who were already facing challenging family situations, anxiety or abuse.

We are looking ahead to different ways of funding projects for schools around coping with bereavement and loss as well as support for parents and teachers with transitioning children and young people back into school; we anticipate this may prove difficult for many.

If you know of a family who is struggling at this time, please do speak to us or ask them to contact our Head of School Services, Catherine Munns cmunns@bccs.org.uk

Could we ask you also if possible, to put a link to our website on your own webpage to signpost families to our service.  The link to our webpage is: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/>

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parishioners who donated to our work during the season of advent; we have been very glad to receive these crib donations over the past few months.  It is true to say that donations from our parishes and schools are vital in ensuring we can continue to deliver our specialist mental health services throughout the Diocese.

We look forward to being able to re-start our information talks in parishes throughout the autumn and winter – this will be an important way for us to share our story and of course, to ask for donations from our community which will be so necessary to us at that time.

Thanking you for your continued help and support.

Kind Regards,

Bernadette Fisher

**Director**

bccs - Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

01268 784544

[www.bccs.org.uk](http://www.bccs.org.uk/)

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