



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 27th March 2020

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

To maintain some sense of normality during these challenging times it is intended that a school newsletter will be published weekly.

Firstly, I hope that you and your loved ones are in good health. It is evident that the 'duty of care' that we have to one another becomes more vital than ever at this time. We are all to follow the current advice regarding social distancing and where required self-isolation.

There have been children in school this week. These have almost exclusively been children of key workers although there are other limited groups that may attend if necessary; children with an Education Health Care Plan and children who are classed as vulnerable.

On Monday, there were twenty-three children at school, on Tuesday, there were nine children, on Wednesday, eight children were in, yesterday there were four children in and today, five children were in school.

The advice remains for the groups noted above that those children should only be in school if it is necessary and if they are cared for by other family members or friends they should not be within the vulnerable groupings, this includes those who have underlying health issues.

My thanks to those staff who have been in school this week to provide child care for the children who have had to attend. I have had to self-isolate due to my son having symptoms. This has been the case for other staff whose family members have shown possible symptoms. There are several staff who are carers for family members in the vulnerable groups and several staff who are themselves classed as vulnerable.

Clap for our Carers

Thank you to all, wherever you live, who showed their appreciation for NHS staff during last night's 'Clap for our Carers' event. Let us hope that at this challenging time and once this crisis has passed that NHS staff, and all who serve our communities, are treated with the respect that they are due.



Term Dates

It is intended that the school will be open to those children who have to attend up to and including Thursday 9th April. This is a later closing date than the majority of maintained schools in Birmingham; a number of Catholic schools will be open for Holy Week. At this time there is no expectation that schools will be open on Good Friday, 10th April. If closed for the Easter holiday, which for St. Teresa's School is from Monday 13th to Friday 17th April the school will open, for those who have to attend from Monday 20th April.

If the school is open during the planned school's Easter holiday week this will be communicated to the relevant parents and carers.

Learning at home

Last week, the children who were in school were provided with a learning pack. This week, the class teachers have updated the relevant class pages on the school website. This includes activities in support of the children's learning. If you are not familiar with the school's website please go to www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk and on the left hand side of the page go to 'Classes' and click on the relevant year group's page for 2019-2020.

It is usual at this time of year that the child families of children in the Infant classes start to prepare for the Easter bonnet parade and children in the Junior classes begin constructing an 'Egg' design. These are usually brought into school during the last week of term. These, or any 'projects' or activities that are undertaken at home, can be done and where parents'/carers' consent then photographs can be taken and sent to the relevant year groups email address (as noted on the Class page) to be shared on that year groups page. This may be helpful for children to feel that sharing any 'projects' they undertake will give them value and help to reinforce a tangible link to the school community.

Please do go to the 'Home' page of the school website for updates and any key information.

Those children entitled to free school meals have had provision put in place this week and this is being developed next week with food parcels for the children planned to be available on Tuesday.

Residential Visit

On a different note, I would encourage those children who were away from school last week on the Residential Visit to Aberdovey to go to the Year 6 page of the website to view a diary and photographs of the week.

Faith-filled and Hopeful

This half term the two Virtues that will be a focus for us and the other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham are to be Faith-filled and Hopeful. These Virtues are particularly poignant at this time.

Faith-filled: We are faith-filled when we are living life as God inspires us to live it, putting the Gospel into action through our deeds. Faith gives us belief and trust in God and in other people. We have to build on it every day through prayer, being part of a faith community and living out the gospel values. Faith gives us hope.

Hopeful: We are hopeful when we are optimistic about the future, we trust ourselves and others, and we don't give up. Our faith teaches us that God is hope - that Christ walks before us and gives us the courage to follow. Hope makes us unafraid to step into the unknown and face challenges. Hope can deepen or restore our faith.



Please do continue to keep all who are affected by the challenges we face at this time in your prayers.

D. Corkery

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