



# St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

## *Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God*

We have come to the end of the second week of school closures during the current crisis. Whilst there are isolated cases of foolish or selfish behaviours, there are a huge number of accounts of individuals and groups nationally doing their bit and more.

Once again, I hope that you and your loved ones are in good health. I am aware of a number of individuals in families within our school community who have underlying medical conditions that make them very vulnerable. Please do keep each other in your prayers at this time. We are all to follow the current advice regarding social distancing and where required self-isolation.

There have been a small number of children in school this week; on Monday, there were four children in and for each of the other days this week there have been three children in school. These have been children of key workers although there are other limited groups that may attend if necessary. These are children who are classed as vulnerable i.e. children with an Education Health Care Plan and/or children that have a social worker working in support of the family.

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 those family members should not be within the vulnerable groupings, this includes those who have underlying health issues.

Thank you to those staff who have been in school this week to provide child-care for the children who have had to attend. There are staff who have symptoms or whose family members have shown symptoms. There are several staff who are carers for family members in the vulnerable groups and several staff who are themselves classed as vulnerable.

### **Free School Meals**

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 and the voucher system being put in place.

### **Clap for our Carers**

Last night was the second 'Clap for Our Carers' event. Thank you to all, wherever you live, who showed their appreciation for NHS staff and all key workers during last night's 'Clap for our Carers' event. This recognition of those who serve now seems to be moving to a weekly event at 8.00p.m. on Thursday evenings.



### **Wednesday Word**

The Wednesday Word sheet is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. Please do make time to consider the theme of 'Holy Week'. Next week, which is Holy Week, is the most important week in the Christian calendar.



### **Term Dates**

It is intended that the school will be open to those children who have to attend up to and including Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April. This is a later closing date than the majority of maintained schools in Birmingham, which start their Easter break today. We are amongst a number of Catholic schools that will be open until next Thursday. Last week there was no expectation that schools will be open on Good Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> April or Easter Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. This may change during next week. If closed for the Easter holiday, which for St. Teresa's School is intended to be from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April the school will open, for those who have to attend, from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. At this time there is no date planned for schools to return to normal.

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

### **Learning at home**

Prior to schools closing on 20<sup>th</sup> March, the children who were in school were provided with a learning pack. 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' website please go to [www.stteresa.bham.sch.uk](http://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. There have been a few issues with links to certain classes on the website, which hopefully have now been resolved. You may wish to visit other year groups' pages to see what they are doing.

Year group email addresses have been set up for teachers to remain in contact with parents/carers of children in their year group and of course the children themselves. Please do keep an eye out for emails from your child's class teacher on your devices.

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. There is no time limit on this activity. 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.

#### **Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?**

The following information and links have been identified by the Department for Education (DfE):

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

#### **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 relevant 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

D. Corkery