



# St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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

### **Return to school for some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**

This week in school, we expected up to six children in Reception, up to eleven children in Year 1 and up to sixteen children in Year 6. There were also thirteen children of key workers/vulnerable children from a range of classes that we expected in school.

On Monday, in total there were twenty children in school. On Tuesday, there were twenty-seven children in. On Wednesday, there were twenty-two children in. Yesterday, there were twenty-four children in. Today there are ten key workers children/vulnerable children in school.

We have been contacted by several parents/carers for places for their children in the above groups to come to school from next week. There are an additional six Reception children coming to school, one more Year 1 child, two more Year 6 children and two more children of key workers.

For Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 the children will be in two 'bubbles' for each year group. One of these bubbles will be in school on Monday and Tuesday, the other bubble will be in school on Wednesday and Thursday.

School will not be open on Fridays except for key workers' children and vulnerable children who have made us aware of their need for the children to be in school. This closure is to allow for a thorough clean, and for the staff to set work online for the following week.

Children have, and will continue to, come into school at staggered times in the morning. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, accompanied by one adult, come into school and leave school at the end of their school day through the gates by the staff car park to enable social distancing. The narrow entrance/exit onto/from the Infant playground will not be in use.

Children of key workers will come into school through the entrance by the school office, as they are currently doing, and are to be based in the Year 3 classroom. Upon arrival at school, all children will wash their hands.

All parents/carers, children and staff will be reminded to stay two metres away from each other. To avoid parents/carers congregating together, and being mindful of the traffic on Butlers Road, parents/carers may wait on the larger grassed area at the front of school to help observe social distancing. Please do not walk between the staff cars parked at the front of school.

There will be a continual focus on social distancing but for the younger children in particular this is difficult. Regular handwashing takes place and reminding children about hygiene is a priority as is cleaning equipment and, as much as possible, not sharing resources.

The school is not providing PPE equipment, such as masks and gloves for children. At this time, children may wear these items but if so, parents/carers are to provide them. Please note that children do tend to touch their face more often when wearing masks and the virus enters the body through the mouth, nose and eyes. Soap and water kill the virus, masks and gloves do not. There may however be valid reasons why you wish your child to wear PPE. We have bought portable sinks, which are now to be delivered on 15<sup>th</sup> June, to facilitate the additional hand washing.

Children are to wear their own clothes to school. This is so that different clothes can be worn each day and there is time to wash clothes. It may be that children have grown out of their uniform, or have limited uniform and could therefore be wearing the same clothes each day which then has the potential to be taking the virus home or to bring it into school. As the children will not be in uniform it is important to emphasise that jewellery, make up and nail varnish is not allowed for the children. Those with long hair may wish to consider tying it up or plaiting it.

Children will not need to bring P.E. kit, pencil cases or other resources to school. Books, including reading books, will not be coming from school or from home to school. Children will only need their packed lunch, if they are bringing their own into school.

This week and next week the school is providing packed lunches for those children who have school dinners. From Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, we are preparing to provide hot meals at lunchtime.

The start of the day, the end of the day, lunchtimes and breaktimes are staggered. The majority of outdoor play equipment will be out of use. Movement around school is minimised to seek to ensure that each bubble is isolated from the other bubbles.

Children who show any symptoms of illness must not come into school. If a member of the family has Covid-19 symptoms, the child is to remain at home for fourteen days. If a child shows symptoms of illness at school, he or she will be looked after in isolation until they are collected from school. (It is important that all contact details for parent/carers are accurate and up to date). Parents/carers should then seek a test by ringing 111 or looking at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus). If a child or staff member has contracted the Covid-19 virus all other children and staff in that bubble are to self-isolate for fourteen days.

Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will not be returning to school at this time, unless they are attending as key workers'/vulnerable children. We will continue to provide online learning for all year groups to access at home. At the start of this week, the government announced an end to the plans to have all children attending school before the end of this term but there may be guidance provided regarding some of the children being able to spend some time in school prior to the end of term.

There will not be a Breakfast Club or after schools clubs provided.

We know that children and parents/carers have concerns, and each family has their own circumstances to consider at this time. We want to work with you to ensure the safety of all involved in the school community; this is primarily the children, but also the family members who they live with who may be medically vulnerable at this time. It also includes the staff. If children and/or parents/carers do not follow our safety procedures or a child's behaviour could put others at risk of contracting the virus or we have cause to believe that children, or their families, are not following Government social distancing expectations outside of the school, the school reserves the right to refuse entry to school for that child and their family. Due to serious nature of the situation that we all face I do not anticipate this being the case, but at this time safety is the most important aspect of the proposed return to school. This week the children and staff in school have been a credit with their care for each other in managing this challenging situation.

We are anticipating the children who were in school this week to attend next week on their allocated days. Those parents/carers of children we know are starting to attend from next week will have received further written information with relevant information.

#### **Free School Meal Vouchers and Codes**

This week, the parents/carers of children entitled to free school meals who have requested the sixteen-digit voucher code to be forwarded to them should have received those codes. I have been told by a parent that previous codes had gone into their junk folder. I am awaiting the release of this week's vouchers for those parents/carers who requested vouchers for specified supermarket chains. It has been announced that the DfE will not be providing vouchers or voucher codes during the summer holidays.

If parents/carers of any children are having hardship, particularly getting food, please contact the school and we will signpost you to groups that may be able to help you. We have been able to source food parcels and other support for families where we aware of any need and will continue to try to do so.

#### **Catholic Life**

The Wednesday Word booklet for this weekend and the following two weekends is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. Please do make time to consider the theme 'Nourish' and in particular to share this weekend's gospel reading.



Today, Thiago, Tatyana, Kene, Chanveer, Olivier, Zuzanna, Kemai, Kenyah and Hiba were awarded a certificate for designing their own altars. Please look on the school's web site under 'Catholic Life' to see the altars which they have designed.

Masses for the sick and their families, NHS Front-line workers and those working in social care are being streamed live from St. Chad's Cathedral. Next Thursday, 18th June Mass is to be celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Bernard at 7.00 p.m. Go to [www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-chads-cathedral-birmingham](http://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-chads-cathedral-birmingham) to view this event.

Day for Life: This day of prayer is on Sunday 21 June. His Holiness, Pope Francis, has given this day an Apostolic Blessing go to [www.cbcew.org.uk/papal-message-day-for-life-2020/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/papal-message-day-for-life-2020/)



### The Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues

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 'learned' and 'wise'. The challenge is to be learned, finding God in all things; and wise in the ways we use our learning for the common good.

### Learning at home

The class teachers have updated the relevant class pages on the school website with 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.

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. The email address for each year group is on the relevant class page. Please do keep an eye out for emails from your child's class teacher on your devices. Please do contact school if you need help accessing the work provided.

The following, currently free, resource may be of interest in support of your child's reading. You will need to create an account to access the resources.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>



#### [Free eBook library | Oxford Owl from Oxford University Press](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/)

FREE eBook Library. Welcome to our free eBooks collection, developed for children aged 3-11 years old. We are temporarily making even more eBooks available here, while so many schools are closed, so that your child has more to read.

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

### P.E. and Physical Activity

Towards the bottom of the home page of the school website is a link to resources for P.E and Physical Activity. These resources have kindly been provided by Jo Nightingale on behalf of Hamstead Hall School Games. Please do have a look at the ideas for activities, skills practices and games that can be played by all the family.

Keep safe,

*D. Corkery*

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