



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 19th June 2020

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

Children in school this week

This week in school we have expected up to ten children in Reception, up to twelve children in Year 1 and up to seventeen children in Year 6. There were also fifteen children of key workers/vulnerable children from a range of classes that we expected in school.

On Monday, in total, there were twenty-five children in school. On Tuesday, there were twenty-eight children in. On Wednesday, there were thirty-one children in. Yesterday, there were thirty children in. Today, there are ten key workers children/vulnerable children in school.

Since last week, there have been numerous telephone calls made to establish if parents/carers need support accessing the online learning resources or any other support, in many cases staff have been speaking with the child and establishing if parents/carers would or would not bring their children in for a place in school if there were the opportunity to do so. Thank you to the parents and carers who have given us definitive answers to help prepare for next week.

We have been contacted by several parents/carers, who are confirmed as key workers or the children are vulnerable, for places for their children. There is therefore a second group of up to fifteen key workers' children/vulnerable children starting at school from Monday 22nd June. The parents/carers of this group have had the relevant information forwarded to them by email.

For Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children who currently attend school, there are two 'bubbles' for each year group. One of these bubbles is in school on Monday and Tuesday, the other bubble is in school on Wednesday and Thursday.

School is not open on Fridays except for key workers' children and vulnerable children. This closure is to allow for a thorough clean, and for the staff to set work online for the following week.

Children 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. The new bubble of key workers and vulnerable children will also use this entry and exit to move to and from their base in the Year 5 classroom.

Children of key workers/vulnerable children who have previously come into school will continue to come in through the entrance by the school office and continue to be based in the Year 3 classroom. Parents of children in the new key workers bubble, starting from Monday 22nd June, will come into school via the gates by the school car park.

Upon arrival at school, all children will wash their hands.

All parents/carers, children and staff are 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.

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 water bottle and their packed lunch, if they are bringing their own into school.

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. 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.

Parents/carers of children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 who are not attending school but are prepared to send their children into school are to contact us as soon as possible for this to be arranged. I am mindful of the limited amount of time in this school year for a return to be of benefit to those children. If you are a parent or carer of children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and you would like to discuss the arrangements that are in place please contact school. I am sure that there will also be conversations on various social media groups that may, or may not, provide accurate information on the routines and safeguards in place at school.

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.

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. The codes for next week have been ordered and should be forwarded to those parents/carers on Monday 22nd. 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 and last week's vouchers for those parents/carers who requested vouchers for specified supermarket chains.

Thanks in no small part to Marcus Rashford, it has been announced this week that the DfE will be providing vouchers or voucher codes during the school 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 'Courage' and in particular to share this weekend's gospel reading.



This week, Elijah has been awarded a certificate for the leading the prayers for the Reception bubble that he is with.

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/

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 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.

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.

Kooth - Free Online Advice, Youth Support & Counselling Service

Kooth is an online counselling and emotional well-being support service available to all children and young people in Birmingham aged 11-25 years. Commissioned by the Birmingham Children's Partnership Trust, Kooth is a completely safe and anonymous website where young people can go to gain advice and support, 365 days a year. For Year 6 pupils who will be transitioning to secondary schools it may be an exciting time but may cause worries, anxiety and stress in others. Kooth can offer lots of support through our moderated message forums, magazine, mini activities and youth support. Our qualified youth workers and counsellors are available to chat everyday 12-10pm Monday-Friday & 6-10pm Saturday-Sunday. Kooth can also provide support for vulnerable young people who may experience isolation or low self-esteem, helping them to build their resilience for the big changes ahead. The following are links to the Kooth website and a short video about the service;

<https://www.kooth.com/>

<https://vimeo.com/318731977/a9f32c87de>

Keep safe,

D. Corkery