



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 3rd July 2020

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

Children in school this week

This week in school, we have expected up to eleven children in Reception, up to eleven children in Year 1 and up to twenty children in Year 6. There are fifteen children of key workers/vulnerable children that we expected to be in the 'Alpha' key workers/vulnerable bubble and twelve children in the 'Bravo' key workers' children/Vulnerable children bubble.

On Monday, in total, there were forty-four children in school. On Tuesday, there were forty-six children in. On Wednesday, there were forty-seven children in. Yesterday, there were fifty-one children in. Today, there are eighteen key workers children/vulnerable children in school.

This week, the Reception children have been coming into school as a single group from Monday to Thursday. From next week, there will be the same arrangement for the children attending school in the Year 1 bubble.

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.

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.

It is not possible for the school to have the Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 classes, or bubbles made up of children just from those classes, back until September. Staff have been in contact with parents/carers over the last few weeks. If any parents have not spoken with a staff member, although messages have been left where possible, then please contact school if you have any questions or need any support.

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.

Each bubble has an allocated start time. Could parents/carers please ensure that their child is at school on time so that the working day can start promptly. There are a few children in the two Key Workers/Vulnerable children bubbles who are consistently late in which affects the provision for the bubble. As the teachers are trying to teach a bubble made up of children from Year 1 to Year 5 and a bubble made up of children from Year 2 to Year 4 it is important that the teachers are not having to accommodate latecomers.

Year 6 Leavers

At this time of year we would normally be preparing for the Summer Production, led by Year 6. This would be closely followed by the Leavers' Mass, the Leavers' Party and the Leavers' Assembly. These rites of passage as children leave the school have become well-established highlights of the school year for the Year 6 children and their families. At this time none of these events can go ahead, however the intention is that once the situation has returned to normal these children and their families will be invited to return to school for a Leavers' celebration. Please do keep these children and their families in your prayers.

Free School Meal Vouchers and Codes

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 the codes for the week commencing 29th June. The codes for those parents who have requested that the vouchers be forwarded to them for next week have been ordered and should be forwarded to those parents/carers on Monday 6th July.

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 for this weekend is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. Please do make time to consider the theme of 'Companion'.



Worship

It has been announced that places of worship are now able to resume collective acts of worship from 4th July. Please read Cardinal Vincent's response to this <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinals-statement-on-resumption-of-collective-acts-of-worship/>. Each Diocese is awaiting guidance from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales as to what this will look like within the reality of social distancing.

Spirited Arts

There is an annual competition on the Resources for Prayer and Learning page. It would be wonderful to see some of our children entering this. You can find out more here www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2020/

Family holidays

Kenelm Youth Trust have published information regarding family staycations at Alton Castle during the summer break. For more information please read information on their website; <http://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/adventure-holidays.html>

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 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 start of the new academic year

Yesterday, the government announced its plans for the opening of schools fully from September. The expectation is that all children will be returning at the start of the academic year.

Some of the arrangements from September will feel normal to the children, some will reflect the current routines and systems we have in school now and some elements to the start of the school year will be very different.

It is likely that there will be staggered start and end times for the school day and arrangements for dinner times, breaktimes and any movement around school will reflect the expectation to keep classes as a bubble of thirty children.

At this time, we are preparing for children who will be in Years 1 to year 6 at the start of the new academic year to be in school from Wednesday 2nd September.

The new Reception class have not been able to come into school as part of their induction process so the start of their year will be different to usual for the Reception class. We are planning that individual Reception children and a parent/carer will come into school to meet with the Reception staff to begin the process of starting with us at St. Teresa's School.

Details with the arrangements from September will be forwarded to you.

Keep safe,

D. Corkery

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