



# St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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

### **Children in school this week**

This week in school, we have expected up to twelve children in Reception, up to twelve children in Year 1 and up to twenty-one 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 fifteen children in the 'Bravo' key workers' children/Vulnerable children bubble on any given day.

On Monday, in total, there were fifty-six children in school. On Tuesday, there were fifty-nine children in. On Wednesday, there were sixty-one children in. Yesterday, there were sixty-two children in. Today, there are twenty-six key workers children/vulnerable children in school.

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.

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.

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> July. Next week's codes are to be released on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

The codes for those parents/carers who have requested that the vouchers be forwarded to them for this week were posted, delivered or handed to parents/carers at the start of the week. The vouchers for next week have been ordered and should be released to the school to print and forward to those parents/carers on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

The voucher codes and the requests for vouchers for the six weeks of the Summer holidays have been ordered and are to be released on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July. It will be a single code or voucher for each of the entitled children to cover the six weeks of the 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 are 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 'Listening'.



### **Good Shepherd Mass**

The Archbishop of Birmingham; Bernard Longley, celebrated a live streamed 'Good Shepherd' Mass from St. Chad's Cathedral on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June. The children celebrated Mass in their different bubbles. The children reflected on the how the money raised through Lenten fundraising can be used to support others.

### **Catenians Mass for Schools**

Monsignor Timothy Menezes, the Dean of St. Chad's Cathedral, celebrated a live stream Mass on Monday 6 July at 12.15 p.m. Staff and children celebrated Mass virtually.

### **Prayers for Leavers**

Monsignor Timothy Menezes has kindly written a prayer especially for this year's Year 6 children to mark their leaving primary education. Those Year 6 children who are in school will be bringing a prayer card home.

### **The Catholic Pupil Profile Virtue**

This week's Catholic Pupil Profile Virtue certificate goes to Nataniel. Well done Nataniel.

### **Resilience Calendar for July**

Action for Happiness have created a calendar which may be of use to families. The calendar gives prompts and ideas which are useful for children and adults to support well-being. You can download a pdf copy at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/jump-back-july>

### **Kenelm Youth Trust**

As mentioned last week, both Alton Castle and the Soli Centre for Youth Ministry, are offering action-packed, outdoor fun family holidays, where you get to stay in the beautiful 19th century, Pugin designed castle, or Soli, a Retreat/Conference centre which has been renovated to a very high standard and all bedrooms are en-suite. Surrounded by the beauty of the Churnet Valley, riddled with an historic past, a stay at the Castle or its grounds is a unique experience.

All of the stays are COVID-19 secure. Families can hire a floor of the castle all to themselves, socially distancing from staff and activity instructors, so that people can relax and enjoy their holiday in their social bubbles. The range of activities on offer include trekking, biking and archery. Head to the website for more info or to download the brochure: <http://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/adventure-holidays.html>

**Summer camp:** the annual Kenelm Youth Trust Summer camp is being held online this year. More information available here: <http://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/summer-camp-online.html>

### **Gap Year Kenelm Youth Trust**

Kenelm Youth Trust are looking for young adults aged 18-25 who are down-to-earth, ready to grow in their faith and who are enthusiastic about working with young people. A gap year with Kenelm comes with accommodation in Alton where volunteers live in community with other young Christians, so we are seeking out those who work well in a team. <http://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/gap-years.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.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

The events of 2020 have had a profound impact upon the lives of people throughout the world. It has been felt especially in our school and parish communities. In particular, both the preparation for and the celebration of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation for children in Year 3 and Years 5 and 6 has been a great chasm within our life of faith.

Whilst the situation is still not clear as to when exactly this may happen, St. Teresa's School and Fr. David are thinking towards the future and what can be done in readiness for "a time that allows for families and friends to gather safely within our churches." Even with the very recent announcement giving permission for Collective Worship, there will still be restrictions which will continue to have a bearing upon these important Sacraments.

It is important to remember that whilst schools play a vital role in the formation of children to receive the Sacraments, these celebrations are parish events and ultimately it is for the parish priest to determine, alongside guidance from Archbishop Bernard Longley; the Archbishop of Birmingham, how and when these will take place.

We do not want children of this year's Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6 to miss out on this crucial part of their journey of faith. We want you to know that we are considering various options but we foresee that these Sacraments will be celebrated in the new academic year, when safe.

For those children in Year 6 who were preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, we will be in contact with parents when further guidance is issued. Currently, we would envisage a date being set in the new academic year and inviting children to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. With this please ensure that your contact details are updated with the office.

### **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's 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 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**

Last week, 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.

It is likely that the start and end times for the school day will be a time period rather than one set time. We are terming this a 'soft start' and 'soft end' to the school day. Details are to be finalised but it is likely that children, accompanied by an adult if that is the norm for your child, can come onto the school site from 8.45 a.m. to 9.15 a.m. and go on a directed route into class as they arrive, not wait on the playground. The adults can then leave the school site on a directed route. The soft end to the day, when parents/carers can collect is likely to be from 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Children who will be in Years 1 to Year 6 at the start of the new academic year to be in school from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The Reception class, for either the morning or the afternoon, are to be in school from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

We are asking that children are to wear school uniform when they return to school in 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. 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.

Further details with the arrangements from September will be forwarded to you.

### **Term Dates 2020-2021**

The term dates for next academic year, which are below, are also on the school website. St. Teresa's School term dates for next academic year are:

#### *Autumn Term 2020:*

*Tuesday 1st September 2020 - Friday 23rd October 2020*

*Monday 2nd November 2020 - Friday 18th December 2020*

*(Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September is a Teacher Training Day. The children will return to school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September).*

#### *Spring Term 2021:*

*Monday 4th January 2021 - Friday 12th February 2021*

*Monday 22nd February 2021 - Thursday 1st April 2021*

*(Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is a Teacher Training Day. The children will return to school on Tuesday 5th January).*

#### *Summer Term 2021:*

*Monday 19th April 2021 - Friday 28th May 2021*

*Monday 7th June 2021 - Wednesday 21st July 2021*

Please note there are three other Teacher Training Days to be confirmed.

### Staffing for September 2020

The teachers for next academic year are:

Reception: Miss Gravell

Year 1: Miss Goupilliere

Year 2: Mrs Byrne

Year 3: Mrs Allport

Year 4: Miss Gibbon

Year 5: Miss Gold

Year 6: Miss Walk

Inclusion Manager: Miss Shirley

Mrs Gogna and Mrs Lal will be teaching across classes. Mrs Jones, Mrs Dignan, Mrs Carbery, Mrs Keogh, Mrs Murdock and Miss Bennett will be working in support of the children.

As there has not been the opportunity for children to meet their teachers for next year and spend time in their new classroom, the class website pages for next year have been set up now. The teachers will be able to welcome their new class on the relevant class page for 2020-2021.

Should the children wish to get a flavour of life in their new class it would be a good idea to take a look at this year's class page for the relevant class.

I am sorry to say that we have three staff members leaving us at the end of this school year. Two of our valued teaching assistants; Mrs Roberts, who has been with the school for twenty-seven years and Mrs Dawson, who has been with us for sixteen years are leaving. Also, Mrs McKenna, a dinner supervisor who has been with the school for thirty-eight years, is leaving.

We will miss these valued colleagues and friends greatly and wish them all the best.

### Annual School Reports

The children's annual school report are being forwarded electronically to parents and carers. A number of the reports were emailed yesterday, others are being sent today and the final set will be sent on Monday. With this newsletter is a letter regarding the school reports,

Keep safe,



D. Corkery