



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 11th September 2020

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

Please see the information below taken from the NHS website with information regarding the symptoms of coronavirus and how to respond. NHS Link: www.nhs.uk/

- **Check if your child has coronavirus symptoms**

If you get any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

- **Main symptoms**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

A high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

A new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms

- **What to do if you have symptoms**

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. *Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.*

2. *Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result - only leave your home to have a test.*

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

Get a test to check if you have coronavirus (Link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus>)

- **What is a support bubble?**

A support bubble is where someone who lives alone (or just with their children) can meet people from 1 other household.

The guidance, at this time, is that if there is a positive test result for Covid-19 within any bubble i.e. the class, then that class are to isolate at home for fourteen days. This is also the case for staff members in that class bubble. This situation has occurred for year groups in several Birmingham schools this week.

The next few weeks...

We will be continuing with the 'soft start' and 'soft end' to the school day. 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 via the playgrounds. The soft end to the day will continue to be from 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. These times will continue next week.

For the following week, the start and end of the day 'windows' will be reduced from thirty minutes each to twenty minutes. From Monday 21st September, children can come into school from 8.50 a.m. to 9.10 a.m. and are to be collected between 3.00 p.m. and 3.20 p.m.

Should any children be making their own way home from school, which is only relevant for a few children in the older classes, they will leave school at 3.20 p.m.

Similarly, should any of these children's parents/carers wish their child to bring a mobile phone into school to ensure they arrive home safely, please contact the school office for the relevant paperwork and to clarify how this is to be done. If this is agreed the child does not retain the phone during the school day. It is stored securely in school and collected as the child leaves school at the end of the day.

At this time, there will not be Swimming lessons at Handsworth Leisure Centre. This term the Swimming lessons, under normal circumstances, were to be for the children in Year 6 and Year 4. We will contact parents/carers of these classes if this situation changes and the Leisure Centre can securely provide Swimming lessons.

At this time, there will not be any inter-school football matches through the Aston School's League.

Mrs Byrne is our Mental Health lead and can be contacted by email at Y2@stteresa.bham.sch.uk. Given the challenges that all have faced over the last few months she is available to support children and parents/carers with the return to school. Due to Mrs Byrne's health she will not be working with the Year 2 class at this time. Mrs Lal will be the teacher with Year 2.

Covid-19 Parents/Carers Survey

Thank you to those parents/carers who have completed and returned the Covid-19 Parents/carers Survey. For the last academic year. The survey questions reflect the school's response to the Covid-19 crisis. Please do complete this survey and return it to school. The question about whether your child attended school during the coronavirus outbreak is for the time period between March and July. If you have not yet done so please return this by Friday 18th September.

Family Circumstances

Over the last few months, a number of families have had changes in their circumstances. 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 do so.

Grammar School Entrance Exams

Please keep those children in Year 6 who are taking entrance exams for Birmingham Grammar Schools in your prayers. These exams are taking place tomorrow.

Congratulations

We are very proud of Ava, Joshua and Remy who are currently part of Birmingham Royal Ballet's Dance Track programme. Last Saturday they auditioned at Elmhurst Ballet School. Elmhurst is the local vocational and prestigious ballet school that offers top class training from leading professionals from the world of dance. For Years 4, 5 and 6 Elmhurst offer an associate programme which is a Saturday morning of classes in classical ballet, with the option of also doing jazz. It is a huge achievement to be accepted onto an associate course as there are very few places available.

To compliment their dance training they will continue to attend the Dance Track programme and will then graduate onto Dance Track Plus, so they will still receive free ballet lessons provided by Birmingham Royal Ballet for the next three years.

Catholic Life

The Wednesday Word booklet, which has covered each weekend for each weekend throughout the summer, up to and including this weekend is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. The theme for this weekend is 'Forgiveness'.



Catholic Pupil Profile

This half term the two Virtues that are a focus for us and the other Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham are to be 'curious' and 'active'. The challenge is to be curious about the universe and all human activity, and to take increasing responsibility for their own learning, and by providing opportunities for them to be active in the life of the school, the Church and wider community.

This week the Catholic Pupil Profile Award goes to Zeeshaan who took an active role in looking after his friend during dinner time. Zeeshaan had finished dinner so could have gone back to class however he chose to wait and look after his friend who was still eating. Well done Zeeshaan.

Educational Psychologist

The Educational Psychologist team have a parent phonenumber which will run until the half term holiday. The focus of the phonenumber is for any parents who have concerns or worries about students returning to school.

This phonenumber is open to any parents, whether their child has SEND or not.

If you would like to access this service please email Emma.Munro@birmingham.gov.uk with the following information:

- Your name
- The telephone number you would like to be contacted on.
- The name of your child's school.
- Any times and dates you are not available for a consultation.
- Whether an interpreter is required for you to access this service.

Further information can be found on the flyer attached to this newsletter

School Fund

The school is requesting a contribution of £20 from each family for School Fund, also known as the Building Fund. School Fund can be paid in full to the office. Cheques are to be made payable to 'St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School'. If you pay by cash please put it in an envelope labelled as 'School Fund' and the family name. Many thanks in anticipation of your support. Donations can also be made through ParentPay. Thank you to those families who have contributed during this week.

Goodbye Fr. David. Welcome Fr. Peter

I am sorry to say that Fr. David has left St. Teresa's parish. It is often the case that priests are moved by the archbishop after seven years or so and this is the case for Fr. David. We welcome Fr. Peter Madden to St. Teresa's parish. He is hoping to pop into school this afternoon to meet with the children through Microsoft Teams.

Dates for the Diary

- Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th September - New Reception class in for part of the day, either morning or afternoon.
- Tuesday 15th September and subsequent Tuesdays - Miss Parish in school for Cello lessons.
- Wednesday 16th September and subsequent Wednesdays - Mr Torma in school for Violin lessons.
- Thursday 17th September and subsequent Thursdays - Mr Cotterill-Weston in school for Percussion lessons.
- Thursday 17th and Friday 18th September - all Reception children in from 9.00 - 12.00, including dinner.
- Friday 18th September and subsequent Fridays - Mrs Lord in school for fife, flute and recorder lessons.
- Monday 21st September onwards - Reception class in full time.
- From Monday 21st September - Children can come into school from 8.50 a.m. to 9.10 a.m. and are to be collected between 3.00 p.m. and 3.20 p.m.
- Friday 23rd October - End of the first half of the Autumn Term.
- Monday 2nd November - Start of the second half of the Autumn Term.

Keep safe,



D. Corkery

