



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 29th January 2021

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

During today's Congratulations Assembly I set all of the children who are working from home a homework task. Children, your homework is to look after whoever is looking after you at home - to do something to help them at this challenging time and to say thank you to whoever it is that is taking care of you and helping you with your school work. Give whoever is looking after you a big hug and kiss - if it is safe to do so, and tell them that you love them.



My thanks to the staff who, when possible, have been telephoning parents/carers during this week to discuss how things are at home. There are a number of parents and carers who have shared their challenges at this time. Families within the school community have family members who are diagnosed with the virus and in some tragic cases there have been bereavements due to coronavirus. There are families who, for a variety of reasons are facing real challenges at this time. Please continue to share with us - we know that it is important for our children to be able to talk about how they are feeling, but is also important for us as adults. Mrs Byrne, our Mental Health and Well-being lead continues to work with children, staff members and adults and I thank her for her vital work in this area.

It is important for parents/carers to know that although we are providing work for children to complete at home, we do recognise the challenges with a range of issues including; access to devices, maintaining a routine, parents'/carers' own work commitments - be they at home or in the workplace, virtually no opportunity to socialise and the increasing reality of digital fatigue for adults and children. Do what you can do and have been doing - we will support where we can and do not wish to add to any pressures that you are facing.

We are also aware of parents/carers who are not engaging; not accepting contact from school, with no work either being collected or requested from school and no evidence of returned work. If there is a genuine issue we will support but if this is a lack of parental responsibility we will challenge and do be aware that this is a safeguarding issue.

Children working at home, please be aware that we are in contact with your parents/carers in several ways; by telephone, when they come to school to collect paper copies of work and when they return work by email to your teachers. I do not want to have to call your parents/carers to speak to you about your behaviour regarding your attitude to work, getting up and going to bed at appropriate times, washing and dressing, your manners or any aspect relating to school life - you may not be here in person but you are still part of St. Teresa's School and I do not expect any person to let our school down at this time.

My thanks to parents /carers who have returned work to school - this has been a real help in energising the staff to know that their work is being supported at home. There are a number of photographs on the class pages of the school website which have been forwarded by parents/carers, these include numeracy and literacy work, apple seed investigations, some topsy-turvy art work, Mismatch Tran, and catapults!

We have also had some lovely images from Sunday's and Monday's snowy days; with children making snowballs, snow people and lots of lovely memories. My son and I made a snow 'AMONG US' character and had fun sledding down the road as we live on a hill!

From this week, staff at school are self-testing at home twice a week with lateral flow devices (LFDs). Any positive results will result in the relevant class bubble being closed immediately. If this is the case, parents and carers will be informed as soon as possible through a text, an email message and on the home page of the school website.

This week, on Monday the school was closed to all. On Tuesday, there were thirty-four children in. On Wednesday, there were forty-six children in school. Yesterday, there were fifty-one children in and today there are forty-eight children in school.

These numbers do not include any Year 3 children as that bubble has been out of school this week. Those Year 3 children in school at the start of last week were to self-isolate at home up to and including today. Those Year 3 children of critical workers who have to be in school and specific Year 3 vulnerable children may return from Monday.

This week it has been announced that schools in England may be returning more fully from Monday 8th March. This is a situation that we will be informed about near the time. It was also announced that schools in England will not be open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children during the half term break (15th to 19th February).

Family Fund

The Family Fund supports disabled children. Families can apply for grants for laptops or other devices. Information about grants for laptops can be found at <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/computers-and-tablets>

If any support is required completing the forms please contact Miss Shirley at m.shirley@stteresa.bham.sch.uk and she will arrange a time to go through the forms over the phone.

Jack and Ada Beattie Foundation

The Jack and Ada Beattie Foundation is donating £100 to individuals for essential items. Further information can be found at the website <https://tonsofhelp.com/apply>

Catholic Life

The Wednesday Word booklet for this weekend is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. Please do share this weekend's gospel with its theme of 'Teacher' - a theme that is, once again, relevant at this time.



Please keep those affected by coronavirus in your prayers.

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 Grateful and Generous.

We are growing to be grateful for our own gifts, for the gift of other people and for the blessings of each day: and to be generous with our gifts for others. I cannot think of more appropriate virtues to reflect upon at this time.

Free School Meals vouchers

Parents/carers of children who are entitled to free school meals should have received the voucher codes by now. The link below may be helpful. Please do contact school if there are any issues accessing the voucher codes or downloading the vouchers.

https://www.edenred.co.uk/Documents/DfE/DfE_FreeSchoolMeals_ParentCarerFAQs.pdf

Should your family be one that have previously received food parcels through school, or if your family need a food parcel at this time, please come to the school office and we will provide whilst there are food parcels available and if we run out we will source more.

Dates for the Diary

- Friday 12th February at 3.20 p.m. - End of the first half of the Spring Term.
- Monday 22nd February - INSET Day. Only staff in school.
- Tuesday 23rd February at 8.50 a.m. - Start of the second half of Spring Term for children.
- Thursday 1st April at 3.20 p.m. - End of the Spring Term.
- Monday 19th April - INSET Day. Only staff in school.
- Tuesday 20th April at 8.50 a.m. - Start of the Summer Term for children.

Keep safe,

D. Corkery

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