



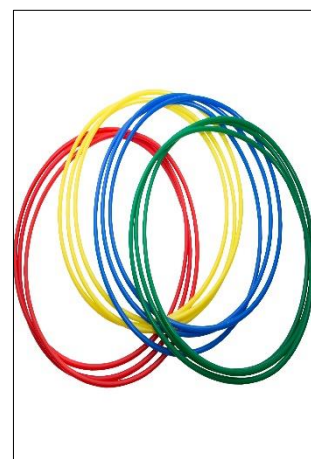
St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 12th February 2021

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

Last week, as noted in last week's school newsletter, was Children's Mental Health Week. The children considered various aspects of mental health and well-being within the theme of 'Express Yourself'. Children, were invited to share by asking parents/carers to send to photograph to their class teacher on the relevant year group's email showing a favourite way of expressing themselves such as; art and craft, design and construction, music, dance, sport, dressing up, drama or anything they liked.



This week in school, we have provided each child with a plastic football and a hula-hoop. Hopefully, we will all get the opportunity, at least for a brief time, to get away from a screen and do something else. These gifts are to encourage us to develop new skills or to practice existing skills. The football could be used for football keepy-uppy, throw and catch, football or basketball dribbling skills or shooting at a target. The hula -hoop could be used to see how long you can hula hoop for, how many times you can jump in and out in a minute, rolling to a family member or trying to spin it so that it rolls away from you and comes back. You could combine both gifts and put the hoop on the ground and with a partner try to get as many bounce passes completed as possible, or you could use the hoop as a target to kick or throw the ball through or into. I am sure that you and your family can find many create ways to develop skills, keep fit and have fun. Parents and carers you can have a go too!



Safer Internet Day

Tuesday of this week, was the national annual Safer Internet Day and the children, whether in or out of school, will have had activities linked to this event. The theme this year was; 'Together for a better internet'. If you were not with your child for the work they did on Tuesday, it would be helpful to ensure their knowledge of being safe online for next half term.



Google Classroom

At the start of next half-term, parents/carers will receive a school email address and a password to access your child's school gmail account to use Google Classroom. When you first log in to this account you will be able to change the password. If you have your own gmail account, or your child has their own gmail account, these are not to be used for Google Classroom. It will be the child's school account that will be used for this aspect of remote learning.

Your child will be set up in their class along with the other twenty-nine children and a Google 'Meet' will then take place after that. We will use Google Classroom and other communication to let you know when the meet will take place.

Twenty safeguarding considerations for lesson live streaming

<https://static.lgfl.net/LgflNet/downloads/digisafe/Safe-Lessons-by-Video-and-Livestream.pdf>

Please be aware of the following initial behaviour considerations:

- Children or parents/carers should not share any meeting links with others
- A minimum of three people on the call to avoid 1 to 1 in which case the teacher may terminate the call. (Unless that is pre-arranged between school and home and fundamental to the purpose of the 'meeting' in which case other safeguards are in place)
- Find a quiet space on your own
- Do not share any personal information during the call
- Behaviour is to be of a high standard in order to allow all students to learn, anyone not upholding these standards will be muted and removed for the call and parents/carers will be informed.
- Keep focused during the session, avoid distractions from having other devices nearby

When the camera is on...consider:

- Dress code - students must be dressed and are not allowed to attend meetings in their pyjamas
- Think about the background and privacy of others who may come into view in the camera

As you can imagine, there is a raft of GDPR compliance being established with regard to data we are using and its management and security, and ensuring Google Classroom is accessible to all. To that end, the school received nine laptops from the Department for Education this week and these have been distributed to families. It may be worth noting that I had tried to apply for thirty-eight laptops.

We are aware of at least one year group where parents/carers have used technology to set up 'virtual' meetings which is an ideal way for the children to remain in touch. As it is an informal arrangement between parents/carers it is not subject to the same regulatory procedures as we have to comply with as a school and I would encourage other classes to try to do the same but to be as inclusive as possible of all children who may wish to be involved.

This week, on Monday there were fifty-two children in school. On Tuesday, there were forty-eight children in. On Wednesday, there were fifty-five children in school. Yesterday, there were fifty-six children in and today there are also fifty-six children in school.

Oxford Owl E-Books

The school now has a subscription for Oxford Owl E-books. This gives remote access to a wide range of books from all the way through the Oxford Reading Tree scheme. A class login has been set up for each class. Parents/carers have been informed by email of the login for their child's class.

At this time this provision acts as an open library but at Easter time, we should have access to Oxford Reading Buddy which is an individualised interactive reading programme which can be used at home. It will not replace real books but is intended for use during times of remote learning, when any children are isolating and as extra home reading support.

My thanks to Mrs Byrne for organising this provision and for providing further information about how to access Oxford Owl E-Books on the home page of the school website.

Sacrament of Confirmation

All of the children in Years 5 and 6 have received a letter from Father Peter. He has provided reading materials regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation. The relevant children are to record the facts they have learnt and write any questions. This to be returned to school by Wednesday 24th February. Father Peter will then read the information that the children provide and prepare to answer any questions.

Covid-19 responses during the February half-term break

The following information is for parents/carers of children who have been attending school:

Schools have been forwarded the following information from the Department for Education (DfE):

Contact tracing over the February half term

Schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing for those pupils and staff who continue to attend their school. We recognise the challenges of this responsibility during holidays. Given limited numbers on-site, we expect contact tracing activity to be reduced but this remains vitally important in the continued national effort to limit the spread of the virus.

Where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, schools are not required to take any action. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. However, where pupils or staff still attending their school test positive having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School will assist with contact tracing during the first six days after the end of this half term school term; that is from 13th to 18th February. This is to allow time, if symptoms develop within 48 hours of the child last being in school, for a coronavirus (COVID-19) test to be taken and the results returned.

The members of staff who are taking on the responsibility contact tracing will respond to notification from parents/carers of positive cases and notify close contacts who were in school to self-isolate if symptoms developed, or the test was taken although the child was asymptomatic, within 48 hours of the last time the child was in school.

We will not identify any individual where there has been a coronavirus (COVID-19) positive result to other parents/carers. We will inform parents/carers that there has been an individual in that class (bubble) who has a coronavirus (Covid-19) positive result.

For St. Teresa's School, notification will be done in three ways:

a message on the home page and the relevant class page of the school website for any class (bubble) that are required to self-isolate

a text message to a parent/carer of any children in the class (bubble)

email to parents/carers of children who have been attending school in the affected class (bubble). This email will be forwarded to the same email address that you receive this weekly newsletter on

Therefore;

For the first six days after teaching ends; that is from Saturday 13th February to Thursday 18th February inclusive, if a pupil who has been attending school tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), the family of the child are to contact school. Contact is to be made by email to enquiry@stteresa.bham.sch.uk. In that email please include;

which child or children had a coronavirus (COVID-19) positive test result

the date your child/children first had symptoms. (If there were symptoms)

the date that the test was taken

the date the positive test result was confirmed

School staff are not on-call or conducting any contact tracing more than six days after the final day of teaching. As the school's last teaching day is on Friday 12th February, there should be no (school based) pupil contact tracing beyond Thursday 18th February.

Should a child, who has been attending school, test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) after developing symptoms more than 48 hours please contact school by email at enquiry@stteresa.bham.sch.uk or by leaving a telephone message on (0121) 554 9581.

These emails and messages will not be actioned until Monday 22nd February. This will not require a class (bubble) to isolate but will require the individual child to isolate for ten days from the onset of symptoms.

Free School Meals vouchers

Edenred Free School Meal vouchers funded by the DfE for the last four weeks of this half term were forwarded to the relevant parents/carers a few weeks ago. A small number of these orders have bounced back to school but this has now been resolved and those parents/carers should have recently received updated information to access their voucher codes.

The DfE are not funding free school meal vouchers for this February half term break. However, Birmingham City Council are funding vouchers for the week using a different (Sodexo) system. The relevant parents/carers should have received their cheque numbers and validation codes for this system today. Please do contact school if there are any issues accessing or downloading the vouchers.

For a small group of children's parents/carers without access to download the voucher codes, we are already aware of the families preferred supermarket chain and will use the code, to download and print the vouchers and to forward them on.

It has been announced by the DfE that free school meal vouchers for next term will be available to order from Tuesday 23rd February for the first two weeks of next half term.

Food parcels

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 as there are food parcels available.

Birmingham Care Group (BCG) has supported the school since March last year, providing food parcels for a number of our families. Yesterday, they contacted me and donated a range of food for families. Thank you to BCG, and all who provide similar services. May we be inspired by their example.

Catholic Life

The Wednesday Word booklet for the half-term break is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. Please do share the next three weekends' gospels with their themes of 'Compassion', 'Lent' and 'Sacred'.

Please keep those affected by coronavirus in your prayers.

Thank you to Kymani and Olivier for leading our Collective Worship, shared across the schools on Microsoft Teams, on Wednesday afternoon.





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.

Dates for the Diary

- Friday 12th February at 3.20 p.m. - End of the first half of the Spring Term.
- Wednesday 17th February - Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent.
- Monday 22nd February - INSET Day. Only staff in school. Remote learning is not provided on an INSET Day.
- 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. Remote learning is not provided on an INSET Day.
- Tuesday 20th April at 8.50 a.m. - Start of the Summer Term for children.
- Friday 28th May at 3.20 p.m. - End of the first half of the Summer Term.

Keep safe,

D. Corkery

D. Corkery