



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 26th February 2021

Little Flowers Growing and Giving Glory to God

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening we are preparing for and looking forward to the return of all children to school from Monday 8th March. Many of the routines that were in place for the Autumn Term, and for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children during this term, will continue.

The route from the staff car park gates around the back of the school and out via the gate exiting the Infant playground will continue to be used for the start and end of the school day. The fifteen minute window for children to come into school in the morning, from 8.50 a.m. to 9.05 a.m., and to leave from 3.05 p.m. to 3.20 p.m. will continue.

The children will continue to be in their class bubbles and isolated from other classes whilst in school. Therefore, breaktimes will continue to be staggered for different year groups and in specific areas of the playgrounds. The staggered dinnertime rota will also continue.

Children are to be in school uniform with the exception being the day of their P.E. lessons which will continue to be on the same day of the week as they were last term; Mondays for Year 6, Tuesdays for Year 1 and Year 5, Wednesdays for Reception and Year 2, Thursday for Year 4 and Friday for Year 3.

We are aware that some children may have outgrown their uniform and we have a number of items which have been kindly donated to the school by the families of several children. Please contact school if you believe you may require uniform including shoes.

At this time, we are not expecting to provide a Breakfast Club from 8th March. Parents/carers will be updated if and when this is set up. It is the same situation for after school sports clubs and activities.

Staff at school continue self-testing at home twice a week with lateral flow devices (LFDs). Any positive results or any child in school testing positive for coronavirus will result in the relevant class bubble being closed. Currently, this closure would be for ten days. 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.

We are aware of a number of our families who have had family members test positive for coronavirus recently. Tragically, some of these positive results have led the passing of elderly family members. Please also be aware that a member of the school community who was in school last half term has tested positive for coronavirus but this was four days into the half term break so did not require any classes being prevented being in school at the start of the half term.

On Tuesday, there were fifty-eight children in school. On Wednesday, there were sixty-three children in school. Yesterday, there were sixty-six children in and today there are fifty-eight children in school.

Google Classroom

You should have received a school email address for your child 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 cannot be used for Google Classroom. It will be the child's school account that will be used for this aspect of remote learning.

Once your child has logged in they can click on the image of nine dots in the form of a square which is located on the top right hand side of the screen. This is known as the 'waffle'. This will give your child access to their year group page. During today's Congratulations Assembly, I have provided guidance which may help accessing your child's account clearer for any parent/carer who is unsure. The recording of the assembly is available through the home page of the school website

Today we have held year group meets for Year 4 and Year 3. At the start of next week we will be holding virtual meets for the remaining classes.

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.

Free School Meals vouchers

Edenred Free School Meal vouchers, funded by the DfE for the first two weeks of this half term, were forwarded to the relevant parents/carers earlier this week.

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.

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.

Catholic Life

The Wednesday Word booklet for the half-term break is available on the 'Home' page of the school website. Please do share this weekends' gospel with its 'Sacred' theme.



Thank you to Ameria, Kemai, Madison and Fr. Peter for leading our Collective Worship yesterday focusing on the first three Stations of the Cross and the prayers of the Rosary as we are now in the liturgical season of Lent. This was shared across the school on Google Meet yesterday afternoon.

Attentive and Discerning



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 Attentive and Discerning.

Attentive to our experience and to our vocation; and discerning about the choices we make and the effects of those choices.

Secondary School Allocation

Please keep the Year 6 children and their families in your prayers as they are being informed of their secondary school allocation from the start of next week. This year it will be assumed that parents/carers of Year 6 children are accepting the offered place for the allocated secondary school unless they confirm with Birmingham Schools' Admissions that they are declining the offered place.

Dates for the Diary

- Thursday 4th March - World Book Day.
- Monday 8th March - All children return to school.
- Wednesday 10th March - First Confessions for the Year 3 Catholic children heard by Fr. Peter at school.
- Monday 15th March - Visiting theatre group performances of 'The Wizard of Oz' at school. Children to donate £2.00 for performance and may dress as fairy tale characters or heroes for the day.
- Wednesday 17th March - First Confessions for the Year 4 Catholic children heard by Fr. Peter at school.
- Tuesday 23rd March at 7.00 p.m. - Sacrament of Confirmation for Catholic children in Year 6 at St. Teresa's Church. Further information to be forwarded to the families of the children involved.
- 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.

Keep safe,

D. Corkery

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