



# St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School Newsletter Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

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

Welcome back to all for the Summer Term and hopefully progress for all of us on the journey to normality. Please note the dates for this term, including days when school will be closed, which are at the end of this newsletter.

### **The Birmingham City Council Local Offer new website**

The Birmingham Local Offer website has been launched. It includes information about the wide range of services that are available to support all areas of a child's life (0-25 years) especially those with a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND). This includes support with education, physical and mental health, social care, leisure activities and moving towards independence and adulthood.

Every Local Authority in England has a duty to provide children and young people, (0-25 years) with support if they have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities - this is known as the Local Offer. Every Local Authority has to publish what support is available on a website: this is called the Local Offer Website.

This Local Offer website gives information about the support that the local authority expects to be available across education, health and social care. The information on the website is clear and easy to find. It says who a particular service is for, how to apply, and how decisions are made about who gets that service.

Please look at the Local Offer on the website [www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk)

### **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 the theme of 'Trust'.



### **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 Compassionate and Loving. The challenge is to be:

**Compassionate:** *We are compassionate when we feel sympathy and concern for other people who are in difficulty, whether they are near to us or far away.*

**Loving:** *We are loving when we show our sympathy and concern for other people by our actions and by our words.*



### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Well done to Year 5, which was the best attending class for the last week of the Spring Term with 98.8% attendance. Congratulations to the most punctual class for the last week of last term, which was Year 1 with no children late to school throughout that week.

#### **Attendance**

If your child is unwell and will not be attending school, please contact the school office between 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. on 0121 554 9581. Please do this for each day your child is off sick.

If we have not received any information from a parent or carer regarding the reason why their child is not attending school we record the absence as 'N' which means no reason is given and is an unauthorised absence.

#### **Punctuality**

Registers are taken between 9.05 a.m. and 9.10 a.m. If your child arrives between 9.10 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. they will be registered as late and you will be asked to make an entry into the late book.

Registers close at 9.30 a.m. If your child arrives after this time they will be registered as late after the close of register which is an unauthorised absence 'U'. You will be asked to make an entry into the late book.

If there are reasons why your child is unable to attend school on time please contact the school and arrange to speak to Miss Shirley or myself and we will arrange to support you in ensuring that your child arrives on time to school.

School Attendance is a Safeguarding issue. The school will investigate any absences and will make referrals to Children's Advice Support Service (CASS) if we have concerns about the welfare and location of a pupil at this school.

### **Lenten fundraising**

Lenten fundraising will continue to be led by Year 6 over the next few weeks with each activity costing 50p a go.

#### **Testing for parents and carers of school aged children**

NHS Test and Trace announced last month that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly. (Click on the link above to find out more and how to source the test kits):

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site - anyone aged 18 or over can collect two packs of seven tests
- by ordering a home test kit online - please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those you need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

#### **School Meals**

A reminder that there will be a second 'Pizza Day' a dinnertimes in school which will be on Mondays, starting from next week. This is a trial period for this change to the menus. Mrs Walsh, our school cook, has informed me that pepperoni pizza will be returning to the menu as well as cheese and tomato pizza.

#### **Ramadan**

Please continue to keep our Muslim families in your prayer during the current period of Ramadan - a time of prayer, reflection and fasting.

#### **St. George's Day**

Thank you to those who donated £1.00 and dressed up for St. George's Day. The school felt very patriotic today. The money donated has raised £127 for CAFOD - the school's Lenten charity.

#### **Dates for the Diary**

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Bank Holiday. School closed.
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May - School closed due to being used as a polling station for the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Mayor elections.
- Weeks commencing Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Telephone Parents' Evenings.
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 3.20 p.m. - End of the first half of the Summer Term.
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - The final INSET Day of this academic year.
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 8.50 a.m. - Start of the second half of the Summer Term for children.
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July - End of the academic year.

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