



Coppull St John's C.E. Primary School



Monday 21st September 2020

'We are growing and learning together in God's Love'

Harvest 2020

This term our charitable giving will focus on the Bishop of Blackburn's Harvest Appeal which will be supporting the work of Tearfund in the Afar region of Ethiopia.

Tearfund is a Christian charity passionate about ending global poverty.

Harvest will look different this year and will take place in class bubbles. Class 3 are preparing to lead a worship around Harvest this week and this will be available for the other classes to watch using zoom. The Harvest appeal will challenge us all to think about our responsibility to our global neighbours. Through this work of Tearfund we will be finding out about Orbisa who lives in Ethiopia with her 9 children.



Water is something we take for granted, even more so today with the amount of regular handwashing we all need to do. We will hear how Orbisa and members of her community have to travel many miles to collect water.

Climate change has contributed to a massive decrease in rainfall in recent years and local sources of water have dried up. Around 65% of the population don't have access to safe drinking water.

Orbisa's village, like the whole Afar region is also facing a new threat as swarms of crop-eating locusts descend on their fields and ruin their crops - just as harvest season arrives.

Tackling the locusts is even harder now that coronavirus has forced the Ethiopian government to close their borders. With severely reduced air travel and cargo shipping, pesticides from Europe and Asia can't get into the countries - and to the farmers - that need them.



Tearfund has started now working with Friendship Support Association (FSA) saving lives by creating access to potable [drinking] water, drilling boreholes and developing water supply systems.

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Tearfund say 'The greatest joy and happiness that we could see in communities is when the families can get water. Lives are being changed and they are seeing the love of Jesus. When we provide water for these communities, we are changing the lives of the coming generations too. The young people, the children, their lives will change, definitely, when we provide water for them.'



Our whole school community will be supporting the work of Tearfund this Harvest.

Please send into school any monetary donations which will be collected and donated directly to the fund. Please send your donations into school by Monday 28th September.

Reminder about school admissions

Primary school admissions: Do you know someone looking for a primary school place for September 2021, then please share this information with them:-

If your child is in their last year of pre-school / nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools. It is quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. The closing date for primary applications for **September 2021 is 23:59 on 15th January 2021.**

Sadly, with COVID restrictions, we will not be able to offer an open day for prospective new families, but please contact school and arrangements can be made with the head teacher to visit the school at the end of a school day.

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in year 6 you can apply for their secondary school place at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools. It is quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application. You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for secondary applications for **September 2021 is 23:59 on 31st October 2020**

Start and finish times

Sincere thanks to all our families and friends for your support with the staggered start and finish times. Please can I ask at the end of the day when you have collected your child/ children you make your way off the playground so that the next group of parents/ carers are able to remain socially distanced waiting for their child.

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I realise that the end of the school day is always chance to catch up with other parents but some parents have shared their concerns that the playground appears congested especially at home time. I know the staggered finish times should prevent this and so I ask that you continue to support this system.

Coronavirus does continue to cause concern as we see a rise in many communities. The key message for continued handwashing and to use a tissue when sneezing or coughing is now embedded practise in school. I thank those parents who have had children or family members tested displaying some symptoms. Once a negative test is returned and your child is feeling well then, of course, they are welcome to return to school.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

A reminder for you ...

COVID-19 symptoms

It is important that all of us are vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19 and understand what actions we should take if someone develops them, either at school or at home. The main symptoms to be aware of are:

- new continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more in an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste If a young person or a child in your care develops any of the above symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible.

We recommend testing only for those with a continuous cough, fever, or loss of or change in the sense of taste or smell. The UK senior clinicians continue to keep the symptoms for case definition under review and will continue to use evidence to adjust these if it becomes necessary. It is essential that people who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, do not attend school, nursery or other childcare settings, and must self-isolate along with all members of their household. If the test is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone. If the test is positive, Track and Trace will give you further advice.

Cold-like symptoms

If, however, your child does not have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they and you do not need to self-isolate. Your child can go to school if fit to do so.

The coming year will have its challenges for us all. Changes and uncertainties are inevitable but as a school community we will continue to have faith, work hard and provide a broad curriculum to support all our children.



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PTFA AGM- ADVANCE NOTICE

School have really appreciated the work of a strong, committed PTFA who have organised and supported a range of school events over the last couple of years.

*The **PTFA AGM** will be taking place on **Thursday 15th October at 7pm** and we are inviting all family and friends to join us on the virtual meeting. The zoom link will be sent home nearer the time.*

'Encourage one another and build each other up' 1 Thessalonians 5 v11

Thank you for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

Mrs Abram

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