SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again, I want to thank you all for your continued support whilst your child is working from home this week. We have been inundated with posts from children sharing their learning at home. Just this week alone we have had over 4000 posts, 3000 comments and 3000 likes.

Although the vast majority of children (and parents) are working hard at home to continue their learning, we have noticed a small number of children are either picking and choosing tasks to complete or not completing any learning. In analysing our records this is more notable with some of our older children in KS2.

Speaking as a parent with one child in Year 1 and another in Year 3, I understand first-hand the difficulties learning from home can present. If you need further support in helping your child at home please speak to your child's class teacher. I would suggest getting into a learning routine at home with lots of mini breaks. Children, like adults, are creatures of habit and will better learn if they know what the routine of each day is. I would also suggest that although KS2 children can require less support than KS1, it is useful if parents can check what lessons and activities their child has completed each day. In talking to some parents they have been surprised to learn that no work has been submitted.

Well-being Wednesday

Throughout the current pandemic, we have been reminded more than ever of the importance of mindfulness and wellbeing. We are aware that the current need for schooling at home has potentially increased the amount of screen time your child is receiving. Add to that the strains, worries and concerns of changes in routines, missing friends and working differently sometimes it can all be too much.

With that in mind, we have created Well-being Wednesday, an afternoon given over to unplugged (non-screen) activities. Tasks have planned around art, craft, design, fitness and activities such as construction and nature. Home learners will be provided with the 4-week plan for this term, so that they can plan and prepare for their choice of activity - teachers have been careful to plan a range of tasks that are close in nature to those being completed in school as we know not everyone has access to the same resources.

If it suits your family's routine, please swap afternoons. You could have Mindful Monday or Thoughtful Thursday - catchy name optional! Should you have children in more than one year group, please select just one activity for you all to complete. We do not want this to be a stressful time!

On Monday, your child's class teacher will share the selection of activities you could participate in and we look forward to seeing all of the wonderful things that you do.

With thanks Mr Ullah Deputy Head Teacher



