

# ST CLARE'S R.C.P NEWSLETTER

Guided by Jesus Christ, our teacher, we journey together learning to dream, believe and achieve.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and your families from all the staff and governors at St Clare's! I hope that the new year brings you all love, happiness, safety and peace.

First of all, I would like to thank you for your support over the course of this week. It has been a difficult week for all with the announcement of the national lockdown and the opening of school to critical workers and vulnerable children.

We know how difficult it is to try and work from home and home-school your children, particularly with such little notice. We are aware that some families have had difficulty accessing Google Classroom and Tapestry for the remote learning. The sheer volume of people across the country trying to access them initially caused problems. This way of working is new to everyone, so please persevere with it as it is the platform which we will be using to provide your children with new learning. There are some instruction videos on the school website. If you are using Google Classroom as an app, you also need to download Google Slides and Google Docs. You can also gain access through an X-Box or PlayStation!

We know that we will be 'closed' to the majority of children for at least six weeks, so it is vital that we carry on teaching new knowledge rather than consolidating what the children have already learnt. Sending home worksheets does not allow new learning to take place. Teachers will be posting videos as well as work in order to ensure that learning continues to happen. We are recording lessons and posting videos due to the fact that not everyone is available to join a live lesson at a given time due to parents' work commitments or sharing devices. By doing this, we are ensuring that all children can access the work at a convenient time. Teachers will also provide the opportunity for the class to meet online, so that the children still have face to face contact with their teachers and friends.

Staff are on hand every day Monday to Friday to help you with any issues that you may be having, so please do not hesitate to get in touch. A member of staff will also be contacting you twice a week to check on you and your child's well-being, which is equally important during lockdown, and to see if you have any queries that they can help you with. Communication is the key to success. Please do not suffer alone if you are experiencing difficulties, we are here to support you in whatever way we can. Working together we will ensure that there is minimum disruption to your child's education.

If your child is looking for additional work whilst at home, there are many sites that they can access. We have subscriptions to various sites including Times Table Rockstars, Mathletics, Maths Shed and Education City. Please contact us if you need log in details. There are lots of videos to support online learning on Oak Academy and the BBC schools websites too. Oxford Owl allow access to online books – your class teacher can provide with the details. Also, Phonics Play website are offering free access to their phonics resources using username Jan21 and password home.

## **Assembly**

This week our Assembly focused on the Epiphany which was celebrated on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January and is a Holy DAY. The assembly is available for your children to watch on Google Classroom. As a Catholic school, it is imperative that we continue to share and explore our faith. The children thought about their experiences of giving gifts and the meaning of the gifts the wise man gave to Jesus. We learnt that Jesus Himself is the most perfect gift of love from God to and how we can share that gift with others.

## **Mobile Data**

Please see the following link <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data> which temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that disadvantaged children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted. School would need to make the request for you. We would need to know the name of the account holder, the number of the mobile device and the mobile network of that device (for example Three). Again, please get in touch if this is something we can support you with.

## **Pope Francis**

Lockdown can be a very difficult time for many people. I have experienced genuine warmth and welcome as a newcomer to St Clare's, so I will take this opportunity to reflect on Pope's Francis's New Year's message to us as we try to support each other through this time:

'While we hope for new beginnings and new cures, let us not neglect care. Together with a vaccine for our bodies, we need a vaccine for our hearts. That vaccine is care. This will be a good year if we take care of others, as Our Lady does with us.

Time is a treasure that all of us possess, yet we guard it jealously, since we want to use it only for ourselves. Let us ask for the grace to find time for God and for our neighbour—for those who are alone or suffering, for those who need someone to listen and show concern for them.'

Once again thank you for your patience, dedication and support throughout this week.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Howe