



School Newsletter

With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

03.04.2020

Dear parents/ carers,

Good evening, I hope everyone is well and keeping safe. This is the end of term spring term newsletter. It marks the start of the two-week Easter holiday, strange as that seems. Teachers and TAs will be going off-line for two weeks, so please do not send any messages or examples of work including any work done over the holiday. We will start afresh on Monday 20th April. We want the children and staff to enjoy a break from school work.

I want to say how grateful I am to all our fantastic staff in whatever role they play, in what they have done over the last couple of weeks: the office staff, the lunchtime welfare staff, the before and after school club staff, the teachers, the teaching assistants, the cleaners, and the kitchen staff. It has been a tremendous team effort. Well done and thank you all.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to our team who have volunteered to come in to work over the Easter break to provide childcare for children of critical workers– thank you, it is very, very much appreciated.

Another very big ‘thank you’ to you and your children for engaging so well in the remote learning over the last couple of weeks and staying in touch on *SeeSaw* and *Class Dojo*. It has been amazing and inspiring to see what the children have been able to achieve. Well done children, parents, teaching assistants and teachers. It has been a magnificent effort.

In saying that, I am also aware that every household has a unique set of circumstances, in terms of how well learning can be supported at home. Please do not berate yourselves if you see on social media, or on Dojo, or SeeSaw that other parents’ children are flying through the work.

All we ask, and all that can be expected of you, is that the children do the best they can in their own particular circumstances. The single most important thing at the moment, as the government reminds us, is that you all keep safe, protect yourselves and the NHS, and ultimately that lives are saved.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

In the government's advice to schools this week, they asked us to consider child protection and safeguarding in this new way of working. They also provided advice for parents especially when children are accessing learning online which we are asked to share with you:

6.3 Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

*Taken from DfE Guidance: Closure of educational settings: information for parents and carers
Updated 31 March 2020*

Addendum to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

I have also added an addendum to the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy regarding arrangements during the pandemic, which I have sent out alongside this newsletter. In addition, I have attached 'Pupil Online Acceptable Use Agreements' which the children will have seen and discussed at school this year but I would appreciate if you were able to go through with them – especially in regard to online behaviour. There are agreements for EYFS/ KS1, KS2 and for parents.

Easter Activities

A number of parents have been asking teachers for ideas and activities of things to do over Easter. Mrs Nicklin and the staff have put together a comprehensive list see attached. There is absolutely no obligation to do any of these, we just thought you might find them useful. And please do not send completed activities to teachers – they will be offline!

Easter Art Activities

Due to the COVID-enforced school closure, we missed out on some wonderful Easter art activities planned for the children. One of our parents, Mrs Gildea, was due to come in and work with the children with some exciting ideas. In spite of this, she has kindly put together some simple-to-do but very effective art activities for the children to do at home if they so wish. (see attached).

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon to livestream Holy Week and Easter Services from Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral

The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool, is to livestream the Holy Week and Easter Services from the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool. The Services mark the most important time of the Christian year when the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus are commemorated.

The stream can be accessed from the Metropolitan Cathedral's website at: www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

The Archbishop says, 'This year our Holy Week devotions will have to be different as we rightly respect government restrictions. We cannot physically gather as a worshipping community, but livestreaming gives us the opportunity to join together spiritually in sincere prayer and devotion as we commemorate the passion, death and glorious resurrection of the Lord.'

Services will be streamed as follows:

Palm Sunday, 5 April	11.00 am	Mass
Holy Thursday, 9 April	7.00 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday, 10 April	3.00 pm	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday, 11 April	8.00 pm	The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter
Easter Sunday, 12 April	11.00 am	Mass

On behalf of everybody at school I wish you all a happy, holy and safe Easter break. Please take care of yourselves. Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth Headteacher