



Do Everything with Love
(1 Corinthians 16:14)
April 2020



Update from Mrs Christopher

Writing this month's newsletter seems very strange as life seems to have changed dramatically in the last month. A month ago we were carrying on with our normal daily lives not knowing what was ahead of us. I hope that the 'Footsteps' poem in the March news has helped some of you, it always gives me reassurance in times of uncertainty.

This month all I really want to say is WELL DONE to all of you. Life has thrown us all into a new situation and receiving feedback from the teachers (from their phone calls to you), you all deserve a great pat on the back for what you are doing. Some of our teachers are in the same situation as you- parents of young children trying to work at home as well. I do take my hat off to you but also want to share something I was sent on social media earlier this week- I don't know who wrote it but I thought it was worth sharing.

Parents, what we are asked to do is not humanly possible. There is a reason we are either a working parent, stay-at-home parent, or a part-time working parent.

Working, parenting and teaching are three different jobs and cannot be done at the same time.

It's not hard because you are doing it wrong. It's hard because it's too much. Do the best you can.

When you have to pick, because at some point you will, choose connection. Pick playing a game over arguing about an academic assignment. Pick teaching your child to do laundry rather than feeling frustrated that they aren't helping.

Pick laughing and snuggling and reminding them that they are safe.

If you are stressed, lower your expectations where you can and virtually reach out for social connection. We are in this together to stay well. That means mentally well, too.

This message says it all in this current climate - Do what you can and most importantly, enjoy being with your family.

Easter is only one week away and it is an Easter that will go down in history for being the first one where Catholic Christians are unable to celebrate the Easter Triduum in large gatherings. However, we are fortunate to have the internet so that we can still all gather remotely. Here is a link to online services for readings or online Mass. We can still participate in this most important Church feast -celebrating the risen Lord Jesus.

https://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/weekly-readings-5th-sunday-in-lent-29th-march-2020/?fbclid=IwAR0wELyMVDxog5wuPPuWoDMiXB_i2Pjy3PNHEyMhsvBc5D55QbzfyeheX_U

God bless us all, keep safe everyone and together we will beat this virus,
Mrs Christopher

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Teachers are trying to phone all parents/ children at least once a week so please listen out for their call (except during the easter holiday season). The aim of this is just to keep in touch, see how everyone is getting on and give support if wanted. It's not to check up how much you have done even though I know some of you have done lots. If teachers are calling from home, the number may say 'withheld' so please still answer the call incase it is your child's teacher. If you need to contact teachers, remember, you can email them. Here is another reminder of the addresses:

Maple class: h.long@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk

Elm class: s.reader@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk

Sycamore class: a.pickavance@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk

Beech class: e.england@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk

Oak class: g.dale@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk

Willow class: c.lowndes@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk

Rowan class: k.cheeseman@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk



EASTER ACTIVITY COMPETITION



In previous years we have always set an Easter activity competition for the children to do over the Easter holiday season. We would like to give the children the opportunity of doing it this year too, with a few little changes due to the closure situation.

*Maple (R) , Elm (1) & Sycamore(2) classes are asked to **make an Easter bonnet/ hat.***

*Beech (3), Oak (4), Willow (5) & Rowan(6) classes are asked to **create an Easter garden.***

If you create something, please send a photo to school via your class teacher or the school office. The closing date will be 20/4/20 and the announcements will be made via parentmail and the website on Friday 24th April. The teachers will judge one winner and one runner-up per class and these children will receive a prize through the post (or pick up if it is allowed at that time).

Happy creating everyone!

Assemblies for Holy week on the school website

In response to a request by one of our Y6 children, the teachers have led some short meditations for you to watch each day during Holy week. The reflections have had to be short as we are unable to upload a large amount of video footage. You will find these on the website in the 'Home Assemblies' tab. We hope you and your children will be able to find time to reflect for three minutes on each day of Holy week with one of these reflections. The reflections for Holy week start with:

Palm Sunday- led by Miss Reader

The cleansing of the Temple - led by Mr Pickavance

Maundy Thursday - led by Mrs Dale

The Stations= led by Miss Cheeseman



VIRTUAL CLASSROOM UPDATE

The teachers have been receiving some of your work via email which has been displayed on the website in the appropriate class web pages. Here is some of the Year 4 art work to brighten our day- well done Aurelia, Jacob and Ezra! Keep sending some of your work in everyone and it will be put on the class webpages.



Plans for School work after Easter

Home learning activities for the Summer 1 half term will be on the website from Monday 20/4/20. If you require new exercise books, please email your child's teacher. If teachers have requested that you pick books up we will make these available outside the main office on a table.