

27 March 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you for your support and understanding over the last few weeks. We are all missing your children and the normality of school life. I hope that you and your families are all safe and well. The last few weeks have been a challenge for our school community and I would like to thank you for your patience as we had to adapt from an education setting to a childcare setting. Your kind words and generous gifts (the cakes were a real treat for staff) have brightened up our days. The staff team have been amazing and I would like to thank them for all of their hard work, resilience and commitment. I am privileged to work with them.

At this moment in time, we still do not know when we will re-open but we pray that it will be soon.

We are very proud of all of our children and we have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow and develop over the last two terms. We want them to know we are still here to help them throughout the time school is closed.

Teachers will continue to upload work on the school website. David Walliams has released online audio books for free for children to listen to, you can do PE with Joe at 9am on Body Coach TV and you might even be able to listen to some teachers reading to you online soon.

We will be uploading some photos and videos of Poppy and Pip so they can keep in touch with the children too.

Thank you to all of our parents who are critical workers. Your work is very much appreciated.

We will continue to update our twitter account and website whilst we are closed so please check them regularly.

Class Dojo

Teachers want to keep in touch and maintain regular contact with you. In school, we use ClassDojo to encourage important skills such as participation and working hard. Due to current circumstances, we would like to use this platform as a way of communicating with you and your child. We can share messages and updates in addition to answering any queries you or your child may have. Your child will also be able to upload and send any work they have completed for their teacher to see.

In order to access ClassDojo you will receive an email with a unique link (please check your junk folder if you do not receive this over the next week). Click on the link and follow the instructions to create a parent account. If you do not receive your email by Friday 3 April, please email admin@stcharles.newcastle.sch.uk.

Free School Meals

If your child receives a free school meal, you can collect a packed lunch from the school office. Please confirm this by 9.30am each day if you require a meal. We are currently looking into alternative provision for our families and will provide further information as soon as it is available.

Here is some of the news from the term before it came to a sudden end.

World Book Day

Thank you to Miss Kane and all staff who helped with our World Book Day breakfast. It was fantastic to see such a wonderful turnout. £45 (after we took off costs) was raised which we will spend on new books for the library. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and they all enjoyed creating the school story inspired by a picture they all voted for. Teachers changed classes and the children were read to by another member of staff. Well done everyone!

The librarians announced the lucky KS1 winner for their library competition alongside the 'book in a box' winner. All of the entries were fantastic and we hope to display them in the school library.

Did you find any books outside of school? Someone left books for children to find and take home to read. I hope you were some of the lucky children that found some.



School Council visit St Augustine's Catholic Primary School



This term our School Council visited St Augustine's Catholic Primary School in Gateshead. The children were given a tour of the school and they discussed their roles within school. The children are



hoping to work on a joint project together.

Playground

As part of our drive to continually improve our school and environment, we hope to make some changes in the school playground. Due to the damage of the current wooden planters we are planning their removal in the near future. This area will be replaced to extend the areas the children can use for playing.

Parent Consultations

The parent consultations have been cancelled until further notice. Teachers are currently writing reports for all of the children. When we reopen the meetings will be rescheduled.

Lent

Please use the School Home Learning section of the website to help you pray with your child at home.



The children made their 'purple passion post' during the first week of Lent. They have been writing their Lenten promises on paper chains which are displayed on their focal points in the classrooms. The children have journeyed through forest school spending time at the Stations of the Cross. Our Mini Vinnies have raised money for Malawi by selling purple glitter paint and purple wrist bands. Thank you for all of your generosity.

I hope your children are trying to keep their Lenten promises. Remind them that each day is a new day and to keep trying!

Maths Challenge



We are delighted that we won the maths challenge this year. Children from Year 5 competed against other Catholic schools to participate in various maths challenges. Well done to all involved.



Fair Trade

Thank you for your support with our Fair Trade sale. We raised £103.90

Sports Relief

Great fun was had on Sport Relief day. The children all enjoyed throwing paint at their teachers. They raised £174.

Music-African drumming

Marc and Franco have been with us this term to teach Year 3 and Year 4 African drumming.

The children have enjoyed the sessions and there should have been a celebration of their musical talent. We will let you know if this can be rescheduled.

PTA - Books and Funded Trips

The PTA have raised lots of money to help our children. They have recently donated £400 per class to subsidise trips over the academic year. They have also donated a lot of money that has been spent on the class reading spines, copies for the school library and other quality books to use within school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work.

I hope that you are all staying safe with your families. We will continue to keep all our families in our prayers.

God bless you all.

Nealings

Mrs L Nealings
Head Teacher

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