



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

March 2021

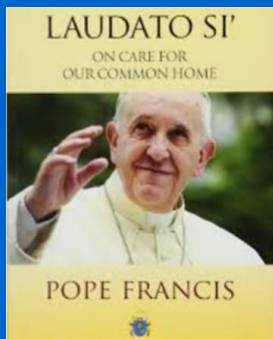
Live, Love and Learn Together

**Important
dates for your
diary:
Coming up...**

END OF TERM:
Thursday 1st April
2021

**BACK TO
SCHOOL:**
Monday 19th April
2021

**FOREST SCHOOL
SESSIONS:**
OAK CLASS, every
Friday please
wear play clothes
and supply
wellies.



Message from Mrs Terrey:

What a year we have had! Who would have thought that a year ago we would still be living with this invisible, nasty we call COVID?
I have been here exactly a year and I can honestly say I have loved every day, even on the days I haven't liked things very much!
I can't pretend things have been easy for any of us, we've all had to be brave and I'm so proud of all of you. We are working together and the hard work is paying off.
I hope you all enjoy your Easter break, you deserve it!

Red Nose Day:

The children in Maple class, ably assisted by Mrs Franklin and Mrs Friedman, organised an epic effort to raise money for Comic Relief. The full story is later under Maple Class.

It is important for us to teach our children to love their neighbour as themselves and have compassion, empathy and kindness. **"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'**" In raising money for amazing charities like Comic Relief we take the opportunity to show our children how lucky they are and what a big difference they can make to someone's life.

Drop Off and Pick Ups:

The drop off times will continue as they are.

Bubbles:

The bubble system is working well and we intend to stay with the current system.

School Lunches:

Hot lunches are continuing for Key Stage 1. Remember to order on the Food Links website the Monday before!

Parking:



Parking remains very challenging and, sadly, unsafe, particularly from 3.00pm. School staff are present to monitor safety for pupils. Unfortunately, when inappropriate and unsafe parking has been challenged staff have been subjected to aggressive abuse. This is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. We have the support of the police in improving this situation. Please consider how and where you park so that it is safe for everyone – your children in particular! Please collect your child from the playground so that we avoid large groups of people standing in the road.

Forest School Holiday Camps:

Our wonderful Mrs Stiles, who is our Forest School Teacher, is offering two days of Forest School fun during the Easter holidays. Places are available for St Catherine's pupils first. Please see the attached flier for more information on how to book a place.

Face Coverings and Contact Tracing:

A reminder that all parents must wear face coverings unless they are exempt? We will offer coverings if you have forgotten. It is Trust policy and the policy of all schools locally that this occurs.

Dorset Council have told us that schools will need to have a contact available for contact tracing for the start of term. This means that if you or anyone in your household have a positive test result for Covid-19 you will need to contact school so that we can inform close contacts and advise you what to do next.

School Office:

We have commissioned a majestic piece of practical art for our reception area. This is the design of Mrs Terrey and Miss Sherrin. It's called a Prayer Tree and, as well as being beautiful, it is also practical. There are pockets for pupils to put prayers they compose themselves for subjects that are important to them. It's inspirational beauty and practicality make it an asset to our school.

So, What HAVE We Been Up To This Week...

Birch and Oak:

We have been having lots of fun measuring capacity with water. We have been exploring how much water different containers hold and comparing them. In our English this week we have been exploring the story "Giraffes Can't Dance" -



a story about a Giraffe who is desperate to dance even though his frame makes it quite tricky.

Linked with our growth mindset work we explored whether Gerald had a growth mindset (he kept trying even though it was tricky) or a fixed mindset (he gave up at the first hurdle because it was too hard). We had a class debate as to whether Gerald should quit or continue his dream the dance. The children put forward arguments for and against and voted as to what Gerald should do. Remember if you try, try, try, you can, can, can!

Sycamore:

Last week, Sycamore Class created natural collages in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. We also went on a seed hunt as part of our plants learning. Look at our fabulous creations. Sycamore Class have been learning about the importance of trees this term alongside plants.

Through these books, we have learnt about deforestation and the need to look after our common home.

The children are learning about life in Kenya and the significance of Wangari Maathai who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her contribution to the World Green Belt Movement in 2004.

She started the Green Belt Movement in 1977 on World Environment Day by planting nine seedlings in her garden and enlisted local women to help her plant more trees. By 2004, thirty million trees had been planted and the movement had spread to 30 African countries and beyond.

Children have been responding to Pope Francis' letter, 'Laudato Si' and thinking about how they can help to look after the Earth in small ways for the common good, just as Wangari said, "It's the little things citizens do, that's what will make the difference."



Ash:

Ash have been continuing to enjoy the wonderfully funny and slightly gruesome book, Demon Dentist by David Walliams. They have imagined they are the main character of Alfie and sent emails to his teacher to explain how outraged he felt and to ask for help. They are also writing their own fantasy stories based on the book. They cannot wait to find out if the unspeakable Miss Root gets away with it.



Hazel:

This week we have been finishing our balanced arguments. We have looked at having a practice debate where we pretended to be different people in authority positions and researched our topic question, 'should junk food be allowed in schools?'. We have also been naming teeth and identifying their functions in science. We are in the middle of conducting an enquiry into how different liquids can affect our teeth. We have used eggs to represent the teeth and covered them in a variety of different drinks. Over the next week, we will continue to observe and record the changes to the egg... and perhaps the smell too!!!



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Maple:

Maple class wanted to get involved and raise money for this years Red Nose Day, but they knew it wouldn't be easy! With the help of their teacher, Mrs Franklin, they discussed how they could hold an event that conformed to COVID guidelines, encouraged people to get involved and, most importantly of all, was FUN!!

After much discussion they decided to get on their bikes! From 08:45 on Friday 19th of March 2021 till 15:15 three static bikes were in constant use with pupils taking turns to ride, 10 minutes at a time. The final amount raised was, an astounding, £245!!



A Big Thank You:

We have had a wonderful donation of £250 from Mary Markwell to buy a new laptop for the pupils to use. We all give our grateful thanks for such a kind thought and generous gesture. This will help our computer whizz kids improve their skills even more!




Easter Egg Hunt:

Morrison's in Bridport very kindly donated enough chocolate Easter eggs for every pupil in school. A bespoke Egg Hunt will be set out following COVID guidelines and avoiding 'cross bubble contamination'. Each class will seek out golf tees which they then exchange for eggs!

Stations of the Cross:

The Easter story of Jesus' journey to Calvary is depicted in churches as Stations of the Cross. At Easter we follow Jesus' journey saying prayers and reflecting on different parts of the story but, with COVID restrictions, it was difficult to think how we could take part in this important sacrament as a school. Our ever-ingenious



teachers and students put their heads together and decided we could have a COVID safe Stations of the Cross out in the field.

The children from Maple and some from Hazel classes took up position at socially distanced points all around the field and read out the story of Jesus carrying the cross. At each point they asked the enthralled listeners to reflect on a time in their lives when they had been in a similar situation and they gave examples. The Chair of Governors, Georgina Coombs, was very glad to attend and said it was a humbling and delightful event that helped bring the message of Easter to our school.

Easter and Us:

Easter is actually the most important time in the Catholic calendar. God gave his only son so we could be saved. Easter symbolises the hope that loss leads to something new. This is the time, this is the place, rise up and become the person you long to be!

"out of the cave of sorrow Jesus arose to release forgiveness to the world"

Thank you to all the staff, pupils, parents and carers, we hope you have a happy, restful and safe Easter and we look forward to seeing you after the break.

From the St Catherine's Team