



8th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers (and of course children),

Happy VE (Victory in Europe) Day!

I hope that you stopped today at 11am to celebrate the end of war in Europe, marking the end of six long years of fighting. What celebrations there must have been on the 8th May 1945, as people remembered the sacrifice that many gave in order to defeat evil. Watching the television today, we are reminded of the celebrations and of the battle that we currently fight, remembering those who gave of themselves then and now. It is poignant to recall the words of Winston Churchill, in his famous VE Day speech:

"I say that in the long years to come, not only will the people of this island but of the world, wherever the bird of freedom chirps in human hearts, look back to what we've done and they will say, 'Do not despair, do not yield to violence and tyranny, march straightforward and die if need be, unconquered'."

Speaking with the teachers this week, I know how hard all our pupils have all been working at home, continuing their learning. Thank you for continuing to support them with this. I hope that you are also following us on twitter (<https://twitter.com/StJosephsCSP>) as we endeavour to post messages and keep you updated with school items.

It is a privilege to hear about our amazing pupils and the great work that they are doing for others. Well done and thank you to Albie Galloway in 6D, who has currently raised over £700 for GOSH (Great Ormond Street Hospital) in the 2.6 challenge. It is amazing to know that in such difficult times there are lots of people still thinking of others.

I know that the news this week has focused upon the statement to be made by Boris Johnson on Sunday. It is hoped, by us all, that we will be able to ease the lockdown and have more opportunities to return to some normality of life. There has also been a lot of speculation regarding the opening of schools and although we have all spent time predicting what decision will be made, as yet, there has been no correspondence regarding when this will be or how this will look. What we do know, is that schools will only open once it is safe for pupils, staff and the school community.

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We have had some problems with the phone lines this week and this is still an ongoing problem. If you need to contact the school, please email the school office - office@st-josephsprimary.bucks.sch.uk. The office emails are checked daily and we will respond to any queries, as promptly as we can.

I would like to thank you again for your continued support in such challenging times. As previously stated in correspondence, I am so fortunate to be the Headteacher of a school in which the community is one of love and encouragement. I know that the staff also feel this support from you.

Please make sure that you take care of yourselves and your children, talking regularly about feelings and emotions – looking after each other. [MindEd](#) is a free online educational resource on children and young people's mental health for all adults, which can support parents and carers through these exceptional circumstances.

As always, the start of the week will begin with our school assembly on Monday morning. This will be available on the website, in the pupils' tab, in the Assemblies folder at 9am. Please click on the link, 11th May, to join this.

Until the Prime Ministers statement on Sunday, we will continue to live as we do, taking care to Stay at home – Protect the NHS – Save lives. Although this, after seven weeks is difficult, we need to remember why we are in lockdown and the part that we have to play:

“Do not let us speak of darker days; let us rather speak of sterner days. These are not dark days, these are great days – the greatest days that our country has ever lived; and we must thank God that we have been allowed, each one of us according to our stations to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race.”

(Winston Churchill)

Have a good week and keep safe!
With God's blessing,



Mrs C Lovegrove
Headteacher



Chairman of the Board of Governors
Mr Barry Moloney
Northampton Diocesan Schools Commission
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DfES Number: 825/3371

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