



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - 20th March 2020

Issue. 24

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents,

This is an uneasy time for us all so I begin this newsletter asking you all to think of one another and we pray that this pandemic is treated with the caution it needs.

You will have read already that the school will 'close' today for most of our children until further notice. I have included the message sent out earlier in the week below. It has been an incredibly busy time as we have begun preparations for how to provide an education for your child through remote learning and packs.

I recognise the additional strain this will place on family life. I also want to make it clear that, whilst we have put all this learning in place, every single household will find themselves in a different position as to how they can manage this. Some of you will thrive on it all and the children will enjoy the independence and freedom to work through what has been set. Others will be trying to juggle already strained commitments with work, extended family and what your life needs you to do. We understand that and do not want anyone to feel guilty or worried. We will be in school still to help where we can.

This is the earlier message sent out on Class Dojo:

"Further to the Government's announcement on Wednesday, as part of the country's ongoing response to coronavirus, our school will be closing from Friday afternoon until further notice except for the children of designated Key Workers and vulnerable children. Children who do not fall into these groups should remain at home with appropriate care. School leaders will do everything possible to ensure that the school can remain open for these groups of children, but staffing levels are being critically affected by the virus. If staffing levels make it impossible to provide a safe environment for the children, the school will have to close.

We have been working hard this week in setting up systems that will allow learning to continue. You will be receiving messages from your class teacher through Class Dojo. Most classes will be using the online Google Classroom facility to share lessons and work. There are also packs being sent home with work to be done. We will be sending these packs home tonight - purely for logistical reasons. We believe there may be some technical difficulties with Class Dojo messages so please keep checking your personal messages to see if there is something for you. The red dot is not always registering.

We appreciate that this is a very difficult time for all. Whilst there is an expectation that we want the children to continue learning as normal, all families will have personal circumstances that must come first. Be assured, we are not just concerned about providing for your child's academic work, we are also wanting where we can to be supportive of you as a family.

We are still waiting for clarification for what is meant by 'key workers' so that we can approach those parents who can be offered care for their child next week and even beyond. We will also inform you of what this will look like."

This has been a difficult week and I would like to thank all the staff and the children for the way they have responded to this national challenge. We have a lot of work ahead of us in making sure your children still have opportunities to learn and that they are not too worried about the immediate future.

The government has made some big decisions - including cancelling all national assessments. These include both KS1 and KS2 SATs, phonics screening and Year 4 multiplication tables.

We now have clarification for what constitutes a 'key worker' so we have messaged you all to see if we are able to cope with demand for childcare. If we can, we would like to think we can also help those critical families over the Easter period as well.

This week we say goodbye and thank you to our students Elize Hands and Airish Suarez. They have completed their final practice and are now ready to join the teaching workforce. We wish them all the very best.

I will keep you up to date as usual. Keep safe and follow all guidance. Please feel free to use Class Dojo or email to contact us if you need us. God bless.

Mr Cotter
Headteacher

pcotter@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk

YouTube

The Bishop's office have asked us to let you know about the Diocesan YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8KUEwsXFK3VBLEfn4H1tBw>

With enough subscribers, the diocese will be able to live stream the liturgy which you may find a great comfort at this time.

ClassDojo - IMPORTANT MESSAGE

ClassDojo are currently unable to send notifications. Please can you ensure that you regularly check class dojo as this is how your teacher will be in communication with you for the foreseeable future. Please can you check ClassDojo at least daily. Thank you.

Tesco - JOB NEWS

Tesco are currently recruiting drivers/shop assistants. If anybody is looking for work during this time of uncertainty, pop along to any Tesco store and make enquiries, as they may be able to give you paid work. IT may also be worth checking with other supermarkets providers too.

Announcement from Premier Sports

Despite the current situation, Premier Sports are still operating and able to help should you need them during the Easter break. Their camps are still running, and they would love you to join them for fun filled days of sports, activities and games with their highly qualified instructors.

If you would like to book your child onto one of their Easter courses please go to:-

www.premier-education.com/holidaycamps and register online.

Please note the Chaddlewood Holiday Club is cancelled

Dates for the Diary

Please refer to the Holy Cross School website for more information of forthcoming events. In light of the current situation however, please expect any engagement to be moved or cancelled as necessary. Thank you for your patience.

A Prayer for Healthcare Workers

during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19

Loving God,
we place into your care
all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.
Give them courage of heart
and strength of mind and body.
Keep them safe from harm.
May they know our deep gratitude
for all they are doing
to heal and help those affected by
the coronavirus.

God of all consolation
may they know your protection and peace.
Bless them in these challenging days
and bless their families. Amen.



kandle.ie

@KANDLEI