



## Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - 24th April 2020

Issue 26

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### Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents,

Happy St George's Day for yesterday! We are thinking of you all at the moment and hoping that you are all working through and coping during these difficult times. Staff have enjoyed catching up with you and hearing how you are doing. The film Miss Buscombe put together of the work done last week brought a tear to my eye and she hopes to create another one this week! I especially loved the opportunities some children shared that would not have been possible at school - the baking, the making and some wonderful art work. Let's try some singing next week!

We continue to look at what the curriculum looks like for your child over this time. We have to be careful that we are not creating learning situations that could cause confusion but at the same time we look to make sure that what is provided is valuable. It is recognised that 'remote learning' is not easy so all teachers still want to support where they can. I want to continue to make it clear that whilst we are building a curriculum for your child, there is no pressure intended as we recognise that all families will be different.

Nationally there are new resources becoming available and teachers will look at how these can possibly support what you have already been given. Oak Academy and BBC Bitesize have created lessons to view and some of them look very good.

Premier Sport continues to offer children the opportunity to join them remotely. Please feel free to have a look at what they are offering. Their latest comment to me was:

***Virtual is surely becoming the new normal.***

*Our #StayHome Activity sessions running on Youtube are being a big hit with parents and children with over 10,000 views on our videos since we started on the 13<sup>th</sup> April.*

*I have attached the timetable of activities that are running this week at 15:30 and please click the link below for the videos*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLNV8D56t6RV0wbsPnbnYeA>

*Virtually, dance is by far our most popular activity. However, children are really enjoying the personal challenges that our Activity Professionals are implementing in sessions.*

What is even more important at the moment is making sure that your child has the **emotional support** they need. We all need to look after each other and this time can create moments that will not be easy for any of us. Some issues that deserve to be talked about include:

- *Strategies for preventing infection*
- *Ways of promoting **positive** mental health and emotional wellbeing*
- *Sleep and good sleep habits*
- *Balancing time online with other activities*
- *Managing online friendships and social media*
- *Maintaining healthy eating habits and physical activity*
- *Study and revision skills*
- *Shared responsibilities in caring for others*

There is a link later in this newsletter for work done by Barnardos that allows children to blog their thoughts and feelings. Mrs Cotter has also placed this on the school website (under SEND).

Mrs King has shared an excellent article from the PSHE Association - **A Guide for parents educating children at home**. It has also been shared on the website - go to the Learning tab and the PSHE folder.

There may be some of you who may now be entitled to **free school meals** due to changing circumstances. Please see later how you can make an application.

Our big message continues to be to look after each other. It doesn't feel like anyone really knows yet when we will return to school so we keep doing the best we can. That is as much as anyone can ask. This is a moment in history that we are all living through so my advice is to mark it in some way by taking the time to do something different or even better. This might be to read a book with your child, keep up that baking, share a passion, hobby or skill, learn something new alongside your child, explore your natural environment, be active, play games, grow something... In years to come it would be great if instead of remembering this time with fear and trepidation, children would say "remember that time when we..."

You are all in our prayers. I will put some more Ten Ten resources on Class Dojo that have prayers and thoughts for the children to look at.

Take care everyone and Godbless,

Mr Cotter  
Headteacher  
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## Join Our Being Well Blog.

Barnardos HYPE Service in Bristol and Plymouth supports young people to create change in health services, working particularly closely with mental health services.

Young people have create a blog so that young people can support each other and encourage each other to stay positive

All of the posts are created by young people aged 25 and under who use Barnardos and other support services.

The blog page is edited by young colleagues involved in HYPE

We would be grateful if you could share the blog page widely with young people.

<https://www.facebook.com/Barnardos-HYPE-Blog-112337810440341>

We want other young people to get involved creating blog pages and sharing their ideas, thoughts and feelings. To get involved message us on facebook or email us at [hype@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:hype@barnardos.org.uk)

We have a canva account that can be shared with young people to create their entries.

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## Could you be eligible for free school meals?

If your circumstances have changed due to the current situation, you may now be entitled to free school meals.

To check whether you may be eligible, and to complete an online application, go to <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolseducationchildcareskillsandemployability/freeschoolmeals>



## Is your child interested in chess?

Or maybe you and your child would like to learn how to play chess?



Devon Junior Chess would like to call your attention to the announcement in the newspapers that Chess In Schools and Communities is sponsoring free Gold membership of ChessKid.com for all primary school children, so that they can learn and play chess during lockdown.

It is a very child-friendly environment and, from a safeguarding point of view, is very safe with the only messages that can be sent between players being from chosen from a list like "Hi!" and "Good game!"

If you are interested you can sign up through the link below.  
<http://chessinschools.co.uk>

*\*secondary school children can have a basic membership through ChessKid.com for free.*

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**Join the Sealife Trust and the Cornish Seal Sanctuary** every Monday for a new downloadable home education pack. There are six workbooks and adult answer books, covering six weeks worth of education. The topics range from 'our changing world', to 'seals and sea lions' to 'ocean habitats and marine mammals'. All workbooks have been created by their education team and are designed to run in line with the current curriculum.

**For more information, and to access the resources simply go to**  
<https://sealsanctuary.sealifetrust.org/en/learn/home-education/>

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## Useful websites

Government help and advice for educating at home during Covid-19: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

For local information from Plymouth City Council: - <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/coronaviruscovid19information>

and for access to the library and to borrow online books and resources: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/libraries>

For help from caring organisations in Plymouth: <https://www.plymouthonlinedirectory.com/article/2716/COVID-19-Caring-For-Plymouth-Help-From-Organisations-In-Plymouth>