



Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Newsletter - 15th May 2020

Issue 28

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents

I am aware that there is a lot of anxiety and concern from parents, teachers and pupils as we look to implement a rollout of the government's plans for a return to school from June 1st. We are working with CAST in trying to ensure that we consider everything that needs to be in place to make sure Holy Cross is as safe as can be. As you will have seen from the document I have already shared this week, this means that schooling will be a very different experience for the children. I would like to make it clear what some of those changes will be:

- To make sure we can keep the social distancing, classes will be made up of 'pods' of approximately 10 children. This pod will need to stay together and not mix with other pods. The teacher may not be the child's class teacher and the classroom might be a different one.
- Parents will not be permitted onto the school premises as we limit contact with adults.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will be very different as equipment has to be limited and spacing needs to be maintained. Groups will be on a staggered timetable throughout the school day.
- Because these 'pods' need to stay separate, there can be no before and after school activities as this would mean we are mixing the children.
- Hygiene and cleaning measures will be constantly implemented throughout the day.

I will include the initial plan again so that you can see more detail in that.

This week I have asked staff to ring all parents of the Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils to find out what you are thinking in terms of return. Key worker children will be able to continue to come to

school from all age groups. It is no surprise that many of you are undecided on what to do. You were awaiting more information in order to feel more secure in your decision. I hope over the weekend you can receive that and if you want to ask any questions of me, please feel free to email or message on Class Dojo.

For those who decide to stay at home and for those other classes, support for home learning will continue through the current remote methods. It will depend on staffing capacity if we can maintain the same levels of individual support, but there will be teams assigned to this.

I am sure you would join with me in thanking the staff for their tremendous efforts - from providing all this learning, then responding to children, to delivering food parcels. I am acutely aware, however, that the coming months will be even more challenging for them as we attempt to put in place such social distancing controls to children who will not be able to understand the concept.

Obviously I will need to make detailed plans early next week so that 'classes' can be assigned and set up. For those who have told the teachers they are unsure what to do, please give this further thought and we will be asking for a definite response on Monday. It is entirely your choice.

I continued to be impressed with some of the learning that has been shared. Thank you for all that you are doing over this time.

As we look forward, I have been sent our allocations for our new Foundation Stage intake for September. For the first time in decades, Holy Cross is not over-subscribed and actually has spaces! If any of you know of parents who might have wanted Holy Cross for their Foundation Stage child but did not think they would 'get in' please let them know to get in touch. We would love to have them.

Keep up the prayers. Take care everyone and Godbless,

Mr Cotter

Headteacher

pcotter@holycross.plymouth.sch.uk



Attached with this week's Newsletter you will find Mrs Chantler's latest Maths Newsletter. Well done to all those pupils who are working hard on their TT Rockstars and Numbots!



**“Stretch Out Your Hands”
The Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth) needs
your help now more than ever !**

In every country and community across the world, the coronavirus pandemic is turning children’s lives upside down. We urgently need your help so that we can continue to support vulnerable children and their families throughout the Diocese. The number of grant applications we receive has already begun to increase as a result of Covid-19 with more families needing our help to meet their basic needs such as a working cooker or a proper bed or cot for their children to sleep in. And we envisage that this number will continue to rise as more families living in Devon, Cornwall and parts of Dorset are affected.

We rely entirely on the generosity of our supporters, parishioners and schools but with so many of our planned fundraising events cancelled, we now need to look for alternative sources of fundraising and funding. **And this is where your help comes in please.**

We have already secured some funding from the Devon Coronavirus Response & Recovery Fund and we have also set up a crowdfunding page. We hope to raise between £3,000 and £6,000 which would enable us to help at least 40 children directly (although more likely 80-100 family members would directly benefit). £6,000 would allow us to purchase for example –

- 10 children’s beds/cots and mattresses - £1,000
- 10 cookers - £2,000
- 10 fridge/freezers - £1,500
- 10 washing machines - £1,500

Please help us to reach our target by donating at
<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/catholic-childrens-society-plymouth-1>

The link to our crowdfunding page can also be found via our website www.ccsplymouth.org.uk where you can also find alternative ways of donating ONLINE via Virgin Money Giving, Charities Aid Foundation or the Big Give. Simply visit www.ccsplymouth.org.uk and click the DONATE button to find out how.

Thank you – we can not do what we do – without you !

ROCKSTEADY NEWS



There's lots to tell you this week! Not only are there new band lessons available, but **Rocksteady at Home** has had a ***big* makeover**, making it even easier to learn and play along at home. There's also games, tips and tricks and new sing along covers for everyone in the family to enjoy: rock classic 'Eye of the Tiger' and also Gnarl's Barkley's 'Crazy'. So take a look around.

You can now also **hire or buy an instrument** for your child to play at home. Simply login to [Rocksteady at Home](#), visit the Parent Zone and follow the link at the bottom to 'Instrument Help'.

Here's what's new!

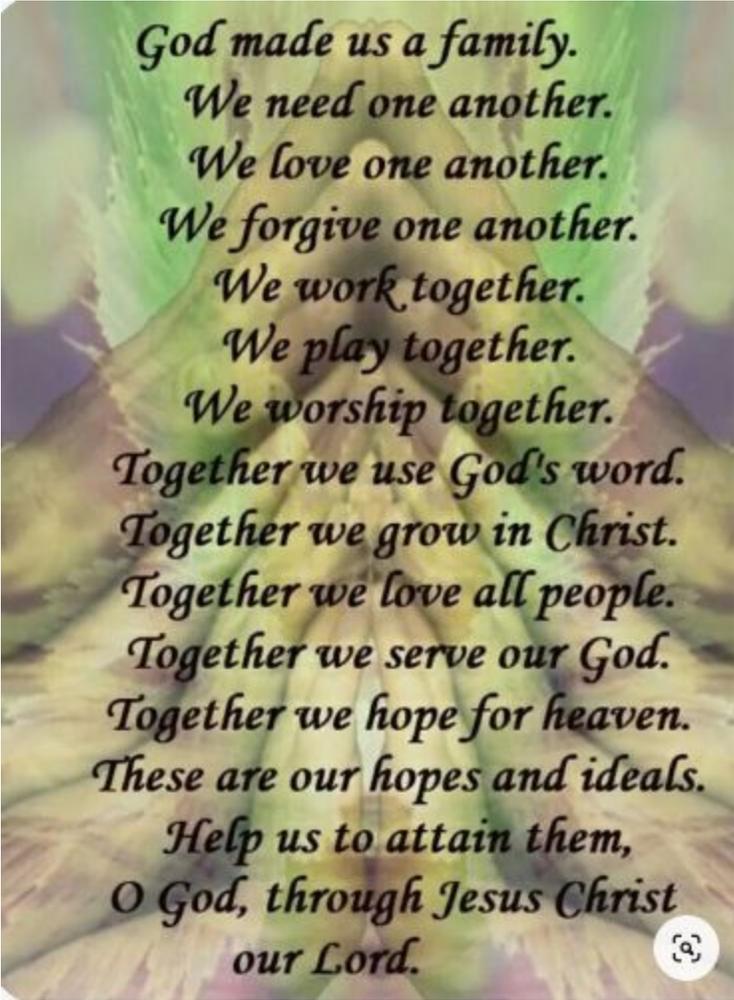
Join in the next part of **Bounce Back**, with Rocksteady's Erin, Luke, Dan, Tom and Tommy. In lesson three they focus on the chorus and 'double time' and then in lesson four it's all about the very special 'middle 8'.

Now on **Rocksteady at Home** it's easier than ever to find, learn, and enjoy the lessons and shows you want:

- Learn and **rehearse at home** with the band through the weekly lessons in three simple steps. Watch the whole band play, practice the part with or without an instrument, and play along with the rest of the band.
- Head over to **Rocksteady TV**, to chill out and catch up on all the latest Weekly Shows for each Key Stage with cover songs, games, tips and more.
- In the **Parent Zone** you'll find out how to help your child learn with confidence and you can also manage your subscription here too.
- Finally, at the top of every page, you can '**Ask a Band Leader**' – ask the team anything you like, we're here to help you.

Important Information About Lessons

After the Government's announcement that some children in primary schools might begin to return [from 1 June](#), we want to reassure you that Rocksteady will be as flexible as possible to support you, your child and your school during this transitional and uncertain time. As we get more certainty, we'll discuss with your school when and how it is safe and appropriate for your Band Leader to resume teaching and we'll be in touch with more information. There's no action needed from you right now



*God made us a family.
We need one another.
We love one another.
We forgive one another.
We work together.
We play together.
We worship together.
Together we use God's word.
Together we grow in Christ.
Together we love all people.
Together we serve our God.
Together we hope for heaven.
These are our hopes and ideals.
Help us to attain them,
O God, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.*