



ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

At St George's, God calls us by name to love,
learn and achieve together, safe in the palm of His hands.

'I have called you by your name; you are mine' Isaiah 43



Eagle Way, Shoeburyness, Essex SS3 9RN.

Telephone: 01702 293522

Email: office@st-georges.southend.sch.uk Website: www.sgcps.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A. Delgado

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To our wonderful parents, families and community,

Happy Easter!

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

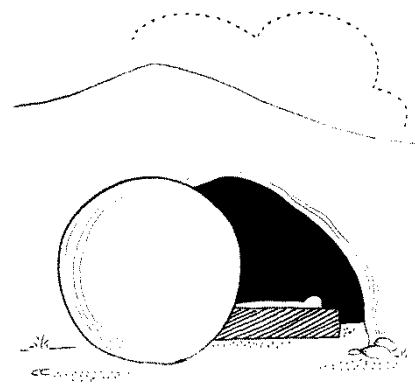
Matthew 28:10

On behalf of all the staff at St George's, I hope you enjoyed a blessed Easter weekend together. I had the pleasure of joining with many of our families at St George's, on Easter Sunday morning, to watch Fr Dominic Howarth celebrate Mass at Walsingham House, Abbotswick.

The overarching message within many of the priests' homilies over Easter was, 'Do not be afraid', - four very powerful words that Jesus said at key times to his disciples. We are all living through a very different time that we too can find frightening. It maybe the worries we have about our own and our families health. Many of us may be concerned about friends whose family unit is strained due to lockdown, or individuals living alone who may feel very isolated at this time. It may be that we have financial fears of how the situation will impact on our ability to pay for the usual monthly bills. It could be that this fear is causing our own mental health to suffer. All of us fear the uncertainty that this crisis is causing. However, we can be sure that Christ knows us, knows our worries and loves us. He wants us to trust him, to talk to him, to share our fears with him, so that he can give us peace ~ whatever our difficulties, He is with us. Jesus' resurrection is a symbol of many things, including new life and hope. Let us look forward with hope: to the new life that will come after this current crisis, and that all of us will truly celebrate life and live life, just as Jesus wanted.

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.' (John 10: 10-11)

Much love, Annabelle Delgado



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Summer Term

Next week we begin the summer term, which marks 4 weeks since the children have been at school. We have missed them greatly and hope to get them back as soon as possible. The date of our return is still very much unknown at this moment, but please be assured that when we have any factual information from the Department of Education, we will share it with you.

Although the school is closed to the vast majority of the children, we have not discharged our responsibility for the safeguarding of every child at the school and the best educational provision possible in these circumstances. I am aware that the first couple of weeks after the school closed was a time to adjust, perhaps it had the feel of a 'snow day closure' or an extended Easter holiday. However, from Monday we will be directing the children to specific learning activities to try to prevent this time away having too great an impact on your child's education.

The key principles underpinning the strategy of moving forward and the subsequent activities/tasks/learning experiences set, are all centred around the education and well-being of the children in our care.

- 1. From a safeguarding perspective, we need to ensure that we have regular interaction with every child at the school.**

As I said, during the first couple of weeks, families were settling into a new routine and had all family members to consider. Many of our families worked through 'hard packs' rather than interacting on line; a way of getting used to the new situation. **From next week onwards I will be contacting any families that have not interacted online with work set at some point during the school week (either on Purple Mash or Tapestry).** It does not have to be every day, but studies have shown that regular interaction with peers and the outside world is very beneficial to children's mental health. If there are ICT issues, please contact us as soon as possible.

- 2. We will have an expectation that the set work will be completed by all the children**

Due to the significant amount of time that the children have already been away from school, we know that their education is highly likely to be affected in some way. The tasks set by the class teacher are age and stage appropriate and designed to ensure that every child's learning moves forward during this time. The school's strong message is, that we expect all of the children to complete the work set. This will prevent your child from falling behind age expected levels, something that could seriously affect your child when normal schooling returns.

The volume of work will be very different to that of a normal school day. However, the expectation that it will be completed is the same. By using the 2Do activities on Purple Mash, we are able to accurately track which children have completed the tasks and give feedback to individuals. Children can post practical work on the class pages which have been slimmed down to:

- A continuous class page ~ this will be used by all the adults in the year group team. Messages, celebrations, other curriculum work or activities can be uploaded here
- An English page ~ for any home writing, pictures of reading, sharing reading awards etc
- A Maths page pictures of practical maths
- An R.E. page ~ responses to R.E. task, activity etc.

With regard to work set for EYFS (Reception class), all parents should have received a separate message from Mrs Philips and Mrs Lawrence. If you have not received this email, please email the office and we will resend it.

3. We will set work that supports learning and give feedback on the work

The staff, and no doubt many of you as parents, are concerned that the children's key skills, reading, phonics, spelling, writing and maths could, by now, be below or well below the level they would be if they were in school. That is why we are publishing the frequency of the tasks that will be set for the children to support their learning.

Reading ~ the children need to read daily, whether that be a home reading book, an e-book from a site such as Home Oxford Owl etc. It is a crucial element of every child's education. Reading is essential for a child's learning throughout their life. The activities set will be a mixture of reading/comprehension/game activity centred around a book the children can access on screen. There are other sites that have reading resources to further supplement reading, which can be found on our school website in 'Useful links'.

Phonics ~ Children in Reception, year 1 and some children in year 2 need to have a daily phonics activity. There are phonics activities on Purple Mash 2do, which class teachers will set for groups of children or classes. In addition to this, the children can use Phonics Play to support their learning.

SPAG ~ Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 children will be set weekly SPAG activities to help develop their knowledge and use of correct punctuation and English, grammar (age appropriate to ensure coverage of all for that year group). This is important to continue with, on a weekly basis, as it impacts upon the quality and accuracy of their writing. Tasks will be set for the children (age appropriate) via Purple Mash 2do.

Spelling ~ we will be using 'Spelling Shed' from next week, an interactive site to help with weekly spelling. There is a weekly focus with word lists and activities. The site allows each teacher to share their spellings for the week. The children will receive their logins next week.

Writing ~ Although the children may not be experiencing the physical nature of writing at home, there is still the opportunity to keep their composition and organisational skills

via purple mash 2do. This will happen on a weekly basis. We still encourage supplementary activities at home ~ writing a journal, shopping list, register for teddies, wish list for when lockdown ends, handwriting sheets on the website etc., and pictures of these can be uploaded on Purple Mash (or Tapestry if your child is in Reception).

Maths ~ The children need to complete a daily maths activity. The work set will be from a mixture of tasks on Mymaths, 2do or Times Tables Rockstars. There may also be practical activities set that can be uploaded on the class Maths page. We will send out log in details for Times Tables rockstars next week.

R.E. ~ The children will be set a weekly task linked to the R.E. topic via the class R.E. page on Purple Mash. Completed work can then be uploaded.

Creative/Topic/Themed work ~ This will be on a weekly or fortnightly basis, as appropriate.

There is an Artist of the Week blog to which the children can upload pictures and there is a P.E. blog for any physical activities that happen during the week.

Subject	Frequency	Where to post
Reading	Daily	Purple Mash 2Do Reading awards on class pages/email office Interaction on Tapestry
Phonics	Daily (where appropriate)	Purple Mash 2Do Any practical activities on English blog page Interaction on Tapestry
SPAG	Weekly (where appropriate)	Purple Mash 2Do
Spelling	Weekly	Literacy Shed website
Writing	Weekly	Purple Mash 2Do Interaction on Tapestry
Maths	Daily	Purple Mash 2Do, Mymaths and Tables Rockstars Any practical activities on Maths blog page Interaction on Tapestry
R.E.	Weekly	Any responses uploaded on R.E. blog page Interaction on Tapestry
Foundation Subjects	Weekly/fortnightly as appropriate	Any responses uploaded on class blog page Interaction on Tapestry



St George's Day 23rd April 2020

We can definitely say that we will not be back in school for our special feast day this year, HOWEVER, that does not mean that we do not celebrate!

This year we will have a very special online Mass in the morning with Fr Dominic, priest at Walsingham House, Abbotswick, where Brentwood Catholic Youth service are based. I spoke to Fr Dominic and he will be saying Mass for the two St George's Primary schools in the diocese (the other is in Walthamstow). It will be live streamed from 10.30am on Thursday via Instagram and I encourage as many of you to be there as possible.

The class teachers will be setting a St George's themed task for the day, which you can upload pictures on the class pages. Mrs Gillett will be selecting a St George themed picture for Artist of the Week and everyone is welcome to upload any physical activities linked to St George (St George obstacle course, St George dragon egg hunt etc!) on the P.E. blog on Purple Mash. Miss Ruzs will be keeping her eyes peeled for performance and creativity! The staff are planning to have afternoon tea in their own homes. You are all very welcome to 'join us' by sending in a photo/video clip of your afternoon celebration, and we will compile the photos or videos of this for our Facebook page.

It would also be lovely if the children compose a special prayer for our feast day. St George is a symbol for many things, including courage and strength to overcome difficult obstacles. It would be wonderful to have a selection of prayers relating to this, or to our school community, (or both!) that we can upload onto the Facebook page and put in next week's newsletter.

FINALLY – but just as importantly! I would like to make a montage of **ALL** our families that are part of St George's and share it on our school Facebook page on St George's Day. The photo might be:

- an individual shot, a group shot of all siblings, the whole family (including Mum, Dad or Carer, future or past St George pupils)
- the children might include something they have made especially for our feast day (a flag, a cake, a picture of St George etc.).
- they may want to wear their uniform or a coloured t-shirt of their house
- it may even be that they have a St George dress up outfit that they would like to wear!

It would be very special if all our community take part and upload their photos on Purple Mash (school blog called **Feast Day photos**) or Tapestry. If that is proving problematic, please email your picture to the office, FAO Mrs Delgado. **The cut off time is Tuesday at noon**, so that I can put the montage together, ready for our feast day. Can I also ask that if photos are being sent to the office, an alternative address to @hotmail is used, as many messages from these addresses are currently undeliverable.

I thank you in advance for your support and look forward to celebrating our Feast Day with you all next week.

Head Teacher's Award

Well done to all the children recognised for their achievements this week.



Sinela (St Francis) -for sharing so much fabulous work on Tapestry

Imogen (St Therese) ~ for having a go at so many different activities, inside and outside, over the last 4 weeks! Thank you so much sharing everything you have done, Imogen!

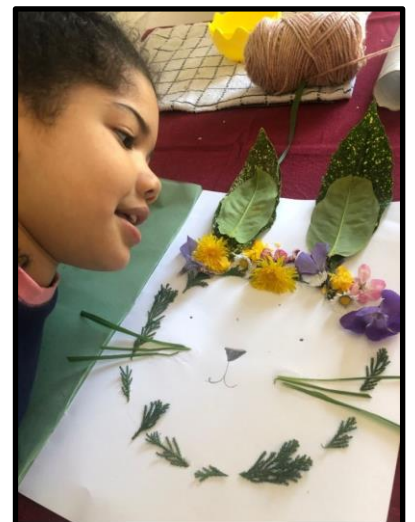
Archie (St Elizabeth) ~ for all your shares on the class blog. You have been busy over the last few weeks, with a range of activities, but always found time to share. Thank you Archie!

Natalia (St Bernadette) ~ for creating the amazing 'Easter Garden' game! It must have taken a great deal of time and effort. Well done Natalia!

Ocean (St Joseph) for a fantastic few days of sharing ALL the things you have been up to – inside, outside, screen-based, baking... the list goes on! Well done Ocean.

Florance- (St Anthony) for completing a range of activities online; your Easter cross was fabulous. Thank you for all your great responses on the blog over the last month.

Eliana (St Peter) – for your participation on the class blogs. I have loved reading your responses, riddle answers and reviews! Also, thank you for the positive comments you make on other children's posts.



Birthdays



Congratulations to all those who celebrated their birthday this week.

Jude (St Francis), Charlie (St Joseph), Richard & Regan (St Peter)
and Mrs Parascandolo & Mrs Sayer
....and to those celebrating over the weekend
Sinela (St Francis) and Dominic (St Elizabeth)

Weekly update 13th – 17th April 2020

As this is the second week of what would have been the Easter holidays and we have encourage all our families to take time away from the screen. Whilst there isn't as much as usual to report on, the children have still enjoyed their week, discovering new things and being very creative!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have commented on the class pages over the last fortnight. It was wonderful to read your words of praise and encouragement. And also a BIG thank you to all the staff members that were in this week, caring for our key worker children.

EYFS haven't taken their foot off the pedal this week – there have been so many activities



going on this week. There were TWO birthdays in St Francis class, Nathan and Jude. Happy birthday boys! Practical activities to support reading, writing maths have continued. Ronnie C. has been working hard to improve his skills in all these area. Ronnie W. continued with his 'Food Art' theme! This time it was letters in cheese! Who knows what it will be next week!

Damian and Chloe have been baking, whilst Nancy, Erin and Albie made Easter cards. Albie is keeping up his fitness, as

are Anina and her brother, Joshua. Sinela has also been out and about on her scooter and whilst outside, used a range of garden plants to make a wonderful bunny face. Well done children, I can't wait to see what you get up to next week!



Year 1 Padme and Blossom have continued to keep themselves busy during this week. On Sunday they enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and then on Tuesday they practised their sewing skills. Excellent work girls! Lily has also been very busy as well. She firstly had to decorate her Nana's



door, as it was Nana's birthday and then she spent some time with Daddy, who was able to take a much needed break from working at the hospital. I am sure Lily is very proud of her Daddy and how he is looking after and helping so many people. The following morning, Lily and her little brother had their own Easter egg hunt which looked great fun! Jake and Katarina made a wonderful Easter tree each, well done both of you!

Imogen has also enjoyed her week. She's been in the garden, made cards and cakes, and tried on Mummy's wedding dress! She also shared that her best part of the week was finding out that her little sister, Abigail, will be coming to St George's from September. Imogen, we can't wait either!

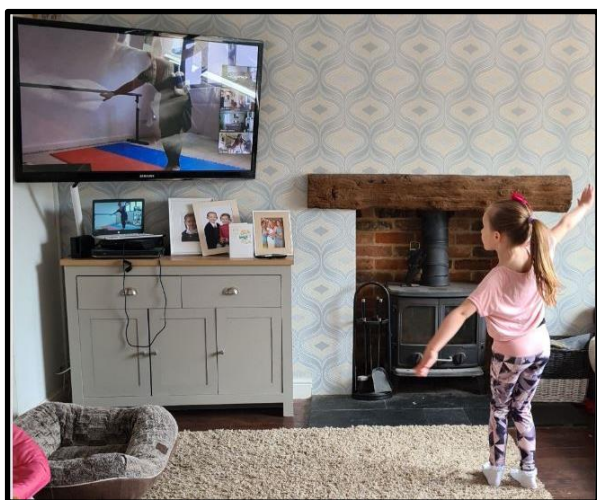


Whilst many children in Year 2 have taken things a little easier this week, that wasn't the case for **Dominic**! Whilst out exploring on his bike he came across a BEAR in the woods! Being a brave individual, he decided to investigate and have a closer inspection. Fortunately, the bear turned out to be an old tree stump that was shaped almost identically to a bear! Well done for such a terrific find Dominic. **Archie** set his classmates (and staff!) a challenge this week. He wrote some 'Guess Who' clues for a mystery character. I am hoping he posts the answer soon, as I

can't think who it is! Thank you to all the children who have been so active on the class blogs during the last month. I look forward to seeing what you all get up to next week!



Year 3's activities this week have definitely had an Easter focus. Natalia shared a picture of her amazing game 'Easter Garden'. She said it is a bit like Monopoly but you use Easter eggs rather than money! Thomas made a wonderful Easter puppet and challenged his sister, Emily, to an egg and spoon race – BLINDFOLDED! I am not 100% sure who won, or even if they finished! Georgina made a variety of Easter crafts and posted a wonderful picture of a rainbow wall she created. She even found time to learn about electrical circuits.



Leah was very pleased to be back at ballet classes using Zoom to interact. Leah also did some baking with her sister Chloe; the scones looked delicious! Like Georgina, Leah also completed a science activity and deconstructed a daffodil to examine parts of a flower. Well done for all your work this week.

I'm pleased to say that Year 4 have taken a well-earned break over the last week. Last week's Head Teacher Award winner, Jasmine, posted a wonderful picture of the many things she has been up to over Easter.

Ocean has also been busy sharing how her pets,

Blossom and Doris make her happy.



She uploaded a video of her keeping fit as well as posting that her and Mum are completing the Joe Wicks workout! Ocean also produced a wonderful Powerpoint about Banksy. Well done to all the children in year 4 who have been so active over the last month. I am sure you will all get very busy from Monday onwards and share all the wonderful things you get up to.



Year 5 have continued to share their activities this week. Natalia and Zofia have been completing number crosswords and ten minute maths challenges, as well as English work linked to the Maya civilization. In Year 6, Isabelle spent time outside planting a variety of vegetables and Emily did some 'alternative' gardening by making a wonderful Easter garden. She also managed to find the time to make some Easter bunnies and a



delicious looking Easter cheesecake. Even though it was the Easter break, Michal completed some English and Maths work. In fact, he completed it so quickly, his Mum had to write a few extra questions for him. Thank you Mum!



Reading Awards

WELL DONE to Keavy (St Anthony), our GOLD reader who reached 150 reads and James (St Peter) our DIAMOND reader who reached 200 reads

Artist of the Week



Congratulations to Jake (St Therese) for his wonderful Easter picture using a printing technique. I really love the silhouettes that you created Jake, well done!

Prayers

We continue to pray for all our families and community during this difficult time.

God Bless,

Mrs Delgado