



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



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To our wonderful parents, families and community,

A MASSIVE hello and virtual hug to EVERYONE!

I trust you are all well and continue to follow the advice which will keep us all safe. I'm pleased to say that we have not had any reports that anyone in our community is poorly; I pray everyday that this remains the case. Whether we are a child or adult, it has certainly been a very different week for all of us. However, what hasn't changed is the sense of community and the connectivity at St George's.

Before I share all the week's news, I would like to thank the **AMAZING STAFF** of our school. We are in constant communication with each other and share so many ideas to ensure that there is plenty for the children to do. **ALL** of the staff, including me, have suddenly upskilled in IT and love blogging daily with the children. They enjoy reading all of the messages and seeing various work from the children who are currently participating online. I know that some families have put physical time ahead of screen time, which I think is just as valuable. I know that you'll all get in touch at some point over the next few weeks.

Please know that your school staff are not enjoying this time away from the classroom. Mrs Heal posted this wonderful message on our staff page to send to all the children.

We think about you, we hope you are safe and healthy. We miss your stories, we miss your smiles, we miss you and we miss our classrooms with the energy you bring.

Love, all the school staff

The staff would also like to **THANK YOU ALL**, the parents and the children, for being so engaged. I know that for many of you, you have discovered IT skills you never realised you had!

Your support for your child's continued education, whether it be online or offline is truly fabulous. Keep it up and I look forward to sharing successes in our weekly newsletter. If you are experiencing any problems with logging on etc., please email the office and we will get in touch.



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On-site activity

As you know the school has remained open for children of key workers whose job is critical to the response to Covid-19. Even though the numbers have been few, the children have worked incredibly hard. They have enjoyed a mixture of physical activities, online activities, art activities and always some time to blog and stay connected with their friends. They may well have missed not being at home, but the staff have made sure they have enjoyed their time in school. Thank you to all the staff who have been in this week supervising and supporting the children.

As many of you know, the office ladies are now working from home remotely, answering emails, passing on requests etc. We ask that you all use emails as the main method of communication between yourself and the teacher or school. The office inbox is regularly checked and all emails are forwarded on to the named teacher.

Many of you have asked what will be happening during, what would have been, the Easter holidays. There will be no daily work set for the class during this time (w/b 6th April & 13th April 2020). The teachers will upload some activities for the fortnight during the weekend before, which the child may do if they wish. I think it's important that the families have the option of a little less structured time during this period. There are other options, which I have listed in Staff Suggestions. The class blogs will still be running and comments will still be made. It's important that parents are aware that this isn't week 1 of a new term, we're actually in the last week of a 12 week term, a term that has proved very busy and also very challenging. In the last ten days, the staff have gone above and beyond expectations and they have worked hard to ensure that everything is in place to support the education of every child whilst they are home. I hope you can see the rationale behind this decision and agree that this break will mean that we all have quiet time away. I thank you in advance for your support.

If there are any questions that you feel it would be good to ask on behalf of the parent community, please either speak with your class rep, who in turn can pass your question on, or email the office and I will respond via the newsletter. There may be many of us wondering about the same question!

Weekly update 23rd – 27th March 2020

A message from Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Philips – Wow! What a busy week it has been in **EYFS**. We have been so lucky to see the wonderful and creative learning that has been going on each day. We have had a range of activities going on from baking and 'cosmic kids' yoga to lego building and phonics games, to name but a few. We even had a wooden bird box being made for a garden! The staff in Year R have really enjoyed looking at and commenting on the activities through 'Tapestry'. The sunshine has been a bonus this week and has enabled some lovely outdoor activities to take place too. We are looking forward to seeing how the activities develop next week. Keep up the great work!



Love from the Year R team

A message from Mrs McLoughlin - What a strange week! Year Wonderful have, of course, risen to the challenge of not being at school and have been doing an amazing job of learning at home. I have loved seeing the variety of activities going on at home and have thoroughly enjoyed messaging back about all the fabulous work. We have admired creative works of art about rainbows and springtime. The children have been giving hope to the community by displaying their rainbows in their windows for people to see.



Year One have also planted sunflowers, made Easter wreaths and been doing lots of exercise, as well as some Maths and English! Mrs Fitchew has challenged the children to her 'Star Baker' challenge and we have seen cupcakes, biscuits, muffins and even Victoria Sponges! Lots of



smiles to be seen on sticky faces! That's all the activities we can see, but we also know there are lots of exciting and happy activities unseen. We want to thank everyone for keeping us entertained and ask that you continue to blog so that we can keep in touch with everyone. Have a great weekend!

Love from the Year 1 team

A message from Mrs Gillett - It has been fantastic to see so many children from St. Elizabeth's Class completing lots of their Home Learning activities set for them this week. They have been working really hard, completing tasks from the 2Do pages and also having lots of fun, cooking, keeping fit, being creative, coding and many more exciting activities! It has been lovely to see lots of their Blogging comments and words of encouragement. It really has helped to keep the community spirit going! I also decided that due to lots of artwork being submitted, we would award someone 'Artist of the week' during our home school learning. You'll find out who won later in the newsletter!



Love from the Year 2 team

*A message from Mrs Bracknell - This week has been full of blogging and the sharing of photos, showing some amazing things that **YEAR 3** have got up to this week. I have really enjoyed looking at each piece of work on our class blog and I have loved reading all the comments the children have written. I have really missed not being able to teach my lovely year 3's, so being able to blog each other, has been a brilliant way to keep in touch.*

I have been impressed with some of the cooking skills some of the children have displayed, such as baking yummy cakes and making Victorian ice cream! I have also seen some lovely artwork such as rainbow art and some lovely drawings, to show the life cycle of a flower. In addition, year 3 have clearly been very active, as I have seen pictures of children taking part in the Joe



Wicks online P.E class. I am very excited to see what our class will achieve next week. Can I also thank the parents and carers for supporting their child's home learning; you're doing a brilliant job!

Love from the Year 3 team

A message from Mrs Howell – Hello to the school community from all of us in St Joseph's class!



The children have been amazing at keeping in touch with me and each other via our **YEAR 4** class blogs this week. The children have been really busy; keeping active, creating beautiful artwork and completing tasks online and from our Home Learning packs. Keep it up! It has been really interesting to hear all the news and the activities you have been doing, including cooking and gardening. The lovely weather has enabled us to get

outside more and the PE Challenges, including the Oti Dance workshops have been great fun. Year 4 are a wonderful class of readers and I have really missed us all reading together this week. I promise we will finish *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* when we return. Sending my best wishes to you and your families, keep in touch and take care.



Love from the Year 4 team

A message from Miss Ruzs – The **YEAR 5** have really shown a range of skills and interests this week, from rainbows and British artists, to baking and tying up shoe laces. It has certainly been a week of new discoveries: talents, things we love and spending time with family and pets.

Thank you to everyone who has popped on the blog to say “hello”, it has really put a smile on



all of our faces. Even though there is a distance between us, we can see how much effort you are putting in to things, both parents and children, and we thank you for everything you are doing. Enjoy the sunshine and enjoy a rest over the weekend and we can't wait to see everything you get up to next week.

Love from the Year 5 team

A message from Mrs Sayer – **YEAR 6** have been very busy during the first week of home learning. They've considered the question, can kindness change the world? After discussions with family members they have designed colourful posters with meaningful messages, ideas and slogans. They were also challenged to complete acts of kindness each day; we have been so impressed with the thoughtfulness and kindness they have shown. Making cups of tea for parents, making pom poms to be sent to Romania, praying for people all around the world and helping siblings with their work are just some examples of the fantastic ways Year 6 have shown their kind spirits this week. Well done all! In Science they have explored refraction using prisms – we've seen lots of lovely examples of the rainbows created when the light has been separated via a prism. You have impressed us with your creativity and ingenuity by finding objects round the house to act as a prism including: wedding rings, glasses and even sparkly shoes! They've successfully revised word classes in SPaG and place value in Maths. Hopefully they've been keeping up with Joe Wicks for their exercise every morning too!



Love from the Year 6 team

A special mention for **Joseph**, also in St Peter's class, who was contacted by Blue Peter! He submitted some of his keyboard playing to the show, as they are hoping to start a band. Joseph had an online video conference call with the assistant producer and who knows what will happen next. We'll keep you posted!

A message from Father Brett

My dear friends,

Life has changed dramatically for many of us. What we called 'normality' has been thrown out of the window and we're having to develop a new normal which is not easy...physically, psychologically or emotionally. If you're like me and feeling a sense of grief, then we need to give ourselves a moment to acknowledge this 'loss' – doing this, helps us to move forward and adapt to change more easily.

Our school staff have done a great job in effecting dramatic changes, and they have not only maintained the excellent standards we have become so used to, but they have kept the spirit of love, friendship and community very much alive and active. I am very proud of them all and grateful for the blessing they bring through their work.

Both the school and parish community are very much in my thoughts and prayers through these disconcerting and worrying times. Even though the church is closed for the foreseeable future, I celebrate Mass every day and bring you with me to altar as I offer the sacrifice of Jesus' love which is poured out for us all, knowing deep within my heart that God holds us in this love.

These are challenging days in many ways, so let us keep well both in body and spirit and pray for one another. With God's grace this terrible crisis will pass, and we shall emerge stronger and more united in faith, hope and love.

God bless you all, Fr Brett



Artist of the Week

Congratulations to Emily (St Peter) who is awarded Artist of the week. She drew an amazing picture of Emma Watson (pictured left) and used the technique of pointillism to complete her masterpiece! It was great to see so many other children comment on how amazing her drawing was too!

Birthdays

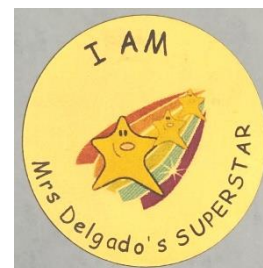


Congratulations to all those celebrating their birthday this week. **Samuel & Polly (St Bernadette)**, **Joseph & William (St Joseph)**, and **Sian (St Peter)**

Head Teacher's Award

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

Ronnie C (St Francis) for going above and beyond with his home learning! A fantastic range of activities in only one week! What a superstar!



Blossom & Padme (St Therese) ~ for being brilliant bloggers and making outstanding contributions to the class blog in the first week.

Harry (St Elizabeth) - for his great effort in school before the start of our home learning week and he has continued to keep it up by taking part in many of the Purple Mash activities set for him!

Georgina (St Bernadette) ~ for her outstanding efforts in completing lots of brilliant work at home. She continuously keeps in touch with our class, with her regular blogs and has even had time to make Victorian ice-cream! Well done Georgina.

Logan (St Joseph) for excellent descriptive writing about a range of settings. Keep up the good work Logan!

Zofia (St Anthony) has engaged enthusiastically with all areas of the curriculum and has really embraced the change and challenge of learning at home. She has produced excellent English, Maths and Art and even dressed in her Victorian Day costume to celebrate the day we didn't quite get to have. Thank you for all your hard work Zofia!

Emily (St Peter) for her fantastic enthusiasm and engagement during the first week of home learning. You have completed an array of tasks to a high standard including a wonderful pointillism portrait of Emma Watson. Well done Emily.

Reading Awards

Well done to **Sian (St Peter)** who gained her bronze award this week, **Ronnie W. (St Francis)** and **Katarina (St Therese)** who reached 100 reads and earned their silver reading certificate. And for the first time this year, ...and our FIRST DIAMOND readers who have reached 200 reads

Thomas & Georgina (St Bernadette), **Harry C. (St Joseph)**, **Fred (St Anthony)**,
Emily, Joseph and Eliana (St Peter).

Well done, a great job!

Staff Suggestions for home activities

Mrs Harris shared a couple of great suggestions on the school whatsapp page. The first is, whenever you want to do something and then realise you can't because of lockdown, write it down and place in a jar so that when this is all over, you can do to the jar and do all the things you missed., This may include sleeping at Nanny's, tea with a friend or even taking up new classes. This also applies to adults as well!

The second is for those parents who still wish to continue with a school day structure. Below are some suggestions, however, I am sure that you know of hundreds out there that have been shared amongst parent groups.

9.00am - PE with Joe Wicks <https://youtu.be/6v-a dpwhro>

10.00am - Maths with Carol Vorderman www.themathsfactor.com

11.00am - English with David Walliams <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/>

12.00pm - Lunch (cooking with Jamie Oliver)

<https://www.jamieoliver.com/features/category/get-kids-cooking/>

1.00pm - Music with Myleene Klass

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQh2wgJ5tOrixYBn6jFXsXQ>

2.00pm - History with Dan Snow (free for 30-days) <https://tv.historyhit.com/signup/package>

Non-daily events include:

Science with Professor Brian Cox, Robin Ince & Guests

<https://cosmicshambles.com/stayathome/upcoming-schedule>

Chester Zoo are doing a live feed and there are many museums that have virtual tours online.

As ever, we ask that you remind your children about staying safe on the internet when using any sites.

Mrs Heal suggested adding a positive word to a jar that starts with the first letter of your name whilst the office staff have art themed activities: Mrs Russell shared the idea of shadow drawing, especially with this wonderful sunshine we are enjoying and Mrs O'Shea asked if you could send any pictures of rainbows to the office email. When we return, she will redecorate the office area with all your works of art.

Prayers

We pray for all of our families, our community, our country and our world at this time. We especially pray for many people in our community who are the front line staff dealing with situation, especially as part of the NHS. I know this covers the children's parents, uncles, aunt, cousins, friends. It also covers St George's staff family members, husbands, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters.

I ask that you keep them in your prayers.

You may also like to use this link which has 15 different prayers, written for children, during this time of school closure.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/15-prayers/>

God Bless, look forward to communicating with you all next week,

Mrs Delgado