



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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Newsletter no. 332 ~ 3rd April 2020

To our wonderful parents, families and community,

Hello everyone, we've missed you this week!

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 every day that this remains the case.

So, the vast majority of us have now settled into more of a routine of remote working and learning at home. I had the pleasure at the beginning of this week to look at all the class pages and see the AMAZING things that the children have done and sent pictures of. To list a few: Assembly presentation, Bird Feeders, Colouring, Den building, Easter bonnet making, Flower painting, Gardening, History research, Icing biscuits, Jogging around the garden, Kind acts to others, Lego building, Maths work, Nail painting, Obstacle course making, Playdoh phonics, Quizzing, Rainbow designing, Sunflower growing, Tooth fairy visit, Using garden objects to create art, Victorian styling, Walking the dog, eXercise!, Yummy baking and 'Zzzzzzzz', lots of sleeping after working so hard

I think we can safely say that St George's has the most creative groups of children (and staff!)
~ they've managed activities from A – Z!

No doubt some of you are finding this difficult and I really encourage you all to stay in touch with each other. It may be that you have found something that works well, that you could share via the class whatsapp page or Facebook page, or it may be that you need some practical advice on how to keep a 7 year old boy engaged for more ten seconds, or ways to involve more english and maths activities into practical activities. I am sure we will all face ups and downs, highs and lows during this time; I encourage all of you to lean on each other and support one another and we will get through this together.

Much love,

Annabelle Delgado



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Registered number 7696989'.

Amazing Love

This week year 3 & 4 were due to perform their Easter production, Amazing Love, to the family and friends. Before the children left, Mrs Howell and Mrs Bracknell filmed the children performing so they would still have an audience, albeit virtual. It would be wonderful to have as many families as possible watch the performance. You can find the video by clicking on the link below. Well done years 3 & 4, you are magnificent, and thank you to the staff in the classes who prepared, supported and enable the children to perform to such an amazing standard.

<https://stgeorges-cps-southend.primarysite.media/>

On-site activity

Although this week has certainly been quieter on site with numbers of children, it hasn't dampened the sound of enthusiasm! We had a birthday at the beginning of the week and the children and staff made sure the birthday boy felt very special! Throughout the week the children have continued to enjoy a range of activities. The staff always make sure they have class blogging time, as this interaction with their friends is so important. Thank you to all the staff who have been in this week.

I would also like to say a very special thank you to Mr O'Shea who has been in everyday, making sure that our school is open, clean and safe for us and the children.

Birthdays



Congratulations to all those celebrating their birthday this week.

Jakey (St Francis), Samuel & Matthias (St Elizabeth),
Declan and Daniel (St Bernadette)

and those celebrating over the weekend

Ted (St Elizabeth), Lucy & Florence (St Bernadette)

Reading Awards

Well done to Amaya (St Francis) on gaining her SILVER award this week for 100 reads,
Jacob (St Elizabeth) and Marley (St Peter)

who gained their GOLD awards this week after reaching 150 reads

...and WELL DONE to our DIAMOND readers who have reached 200 reads

George (St Elizabeth), Florence R-F. (St Bernadette), Samuel R-F. & William (St Joseph),
William (St Anthony) and Phoebe & Amelie (St Peter).

Sports Awards

Performer of the Week – Charles (St Joseph) for his sharp shooting and scoring skills when throwing a ball over his head with his back to the target!

Improver of the Week ~ Jasmine (S Joseph) for her improvement in keepy uppie skills. At first she could do a few, then 5 and then 10!

Well done to both to you!

Artist of the Week



This week selecting an artist was an IMPOSSIBLE job for Mrs Gillett! Therefore she had to select two. Well done to Kieran (St Elizabeth) for his amazing drawing of the Tower of London. So many people also wrote comments on his post to say how they thought it was such an outstanding drawing.

Congratulations to Lyric (St Peter) for her beautiful flower painting which used wonderful colours and patterns. It was great to see so many other children comment on how amazing her painting was too!



A Message from Andrew Packer ~ Chair of St George's Local Governing Committee

I am pleased to say St Georges prepared well for the inevitable closure of the school. This has ensured excellent communication and that children have a clear plan in place for the virtual school day. A big thank you for all the key workers keeping the country going and for your considerate approach to sending your children to school only where absolutely necessary. This situation changes daily and the Senior Leadership Team and Governors are in regular contact. We hold a conference call every Friday and this allows everyone an opportunity to check in and ensure all safeguarding and critical issues are reviewed. Remember our class representatives have a key role to play and any questions can come through them. Thanks to Mrs Delgado and her excellent team for keeping this as normal as possible. The teachers and LSAs coming into the school are very much on the front line, so massive thanks. Wash your hands and take care.

An update from Father Brett

My dear friends,

This coming weekend we begin the most important week in the Church's year, Holy Week. It'll be a Holy Week that any of us have never had before – and quite frankly, I never want again!

It will be very strange being on my own in church celebrating the various liturgies of the week. Be assured, though, that I'll bring you with me as I take the journey through these special days. It would be nice however, if I saw your faces!

Recently, I caught sight of a church on 'YouTube' where the priest had asked his congregation to email/message him a selfie of their faces. He printed them out and stuck them on his pews - I would like to do the same. So, please forward your selfie faces to me and I'll print them out and stick them on the pews! It'll be nice to see you again! 😊

PS. If you don't have it, my email is fbrett@outlook.com

Free School Meals

Due to the current climate and probability that some households may have unfortunately lost their income or be on a considerably reduced income, we thought it was a good time to check if your child may now qualify for pupil premium. If you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed you may be eligible to help with the cost of food for your child, while the school is closed through free school meal vouchers. The school would receive additional funding for your child to provide extra support and resources and help with the cost of food.

Are you currently receiving one of these benefits?

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

If the answer is 'yes' and you do receive one of the benefits listed above, all you need to do is go to Southend Borough Council website to complete a short online form, which you can access at https://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200343/help_with_costs/56/free_school_meals

and the council can perform a simple online check to see if you are eligible. All information is kept confidential at all times.

You will need the following information to complete the form:

- First and Last Name of parent(s) that child resides with.
- Date of Birth of parent(s) above.
- National Insurance Number of parent(s) as above.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office **FAO MRS O'SHEA - FSM.**

What about infants that receive a free meal under universal infant free school meals?

Government guidance states that schools must be concentrating their effort and resources on those who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals at this time. Therefore there is no requirement to continue to provide universal infant free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, or year 2 who are not in school. Children in those year groups who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals will be supported and I encourage any parents who think they may fall in this category to use the link on the previous page.

Safeguarding

This week we received government guidance relating to safeguarding in schools during the Corononavirus. The way we are currently operating in response to Covid-19 is fundamentally different to business as usual, however, a number of important safeguarding principles remain the same.:

1. With regard to safeguarding, the best interest of the children must always continue to come first
2. If anyone in our school community has a safeguarding concern about any child you must act immediately by:
 - contacting the school via an email marked FAO MRS DELGADO - SAFEGUARDING CONCERN or
 - calling the MASH team (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 01702 215007 Monday to Thursday 9am – 5.30pm or Friday 9am – 4.30pm or
Calling the Emergency Duty Team – Out of Hours, 365 days a year on 0345 606 1212

There are also charities such as ChildLine and the NSPCC that you can contact. In an emergency situation where a child is at significance risk of, or experiencing harm, (e.g. domestic violence, being left at home alone, seeing/hearing evidence of physical/sexual/emotional abuse etc), we always recommend that you call the police immediately.

3. The Designated Child Protection Leads (myself and Mrs Wallen) are always on site and available
4. Unsuitable people are not allowed to gain access to children ~ the school site remains safe with all necessary gates and doors secured
5. Children should continue to be protected when on line. We remind all parents and carers of the importance of keeping children safe when online and strongly recommend that everyone visits at least one of the sites below, designed for supporting parents and carers to help protect their child when they are online

Internet Matters <https://www.internetmatters.org/>, Net-aware <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Parent info <https://parentinfo.org/>, Thinkuknow <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

UK Safer Internet Centre <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

If you have any concerns regarding this area, do not hesitate to contact the school via an email marked FAO MRS WALLEN – ESAFETY CONCERN. This may include reporting any online peer on peer abuse.

6. As part of our child protection procedure, we also make regular contact with any families that could be finding this time away from school difficult (financially, emotionally, mentally etc). We ensure that any children that are identified as vulnerable are in regular contact with professionals, social care (if appropriate), and the school.
7. Mental Well-being – Negative experiences and distressing life events, such as the current circumstances, can affect your and your child's mental health. The staff are aware of this when setting work for the children at home. That is why the work is a range of activities that you can do as much, or as little as your family situation allows. However, one thing we feel is very beneficial is interaction between your child and their class teacher on their class blog page. Even if your child can manage a couple of times a week, just to share a photo of something they have made, the connectivity between school and home is a very positive one for everyone.

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