



**JOINT NEWSLETTER
EASTER 2020
SUNDAY 5th APRIL - PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
SUNDAY 12th APRIL - EASTER SUNDAY**

Safeguarding Statement: This school takes notice of and adheres to all the national and local policies and guidance in regard to Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Lead Safeguarding Person Junior School: Mrs S Hulme and **Nursery & Infant School:** Mrs. M Quinn.

Safeguarding Deputies: Mrs H Nicholls, Miss F Sullivan and Miss E Bryant **Safeguarding Governor:** Mr. T Richmond

Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.

HAPPY and HOLY EASTER †

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we hope that you and your families are all safe and well. These are difficult times and it is very important that we continue to think about each other in our daily prayers.

Thankfully, the schools still hold the spirit of the children within, although we have just a few each day with staff working a skeleton rota. The children bring a sense of balance and joy which is much needed at this time. Like any other school we are open for children of key workers who are unable to keep their children at home. We are so proud of our parents who are working in the depths of these serious situations and we appreciate their commitment during this stressful time. Thank you on behalf of our community.

We have been hearing how the children of St Mary's community have been bringing happiness in the local streets as well as drawings being displayed directly at the school- thank you for keeping our neighbours in good spirits.

It is really disappointing that we are unable to physically come together to pray especially during this most Holy period of Easter. Maybe we could all meet in spirit by joining the live streaming Mass on Easter Sunday from Westminster Cathedral at 10.30am, this would be amazing to send our gift of love to each other.

<http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/masses.php?y=2020&m=4&d=12>

Congratulations to Miss Bryant on the delivery of a beautiful baby girl, Evelyn Louise. We offer our love and best wishes to the family.

Normal communication and online teaching will resume on Monday 20th April. May we on behalf of children, staff and governors wish you a most Holy, Happy and healthy Easter!



Kind regards
Mrs Hulme

Spiritual

Firstly, a HOLY WEEK AT HOME RETREAT will be uploaded to the Google classrooms this weekend, so please do look out for it. It includes Scripture and a range of activities, (craft, colouring, music, videos), with links to online resources, for each day. As it's a family resource, not every item is suitable for everyone but hopefully there is something there for all ages.

Now looking back over this term, Lent began this year, as it always does, with the distribution of the Ashes. Father Paul came to the Infants and talked to the children about the significance of the ashes. Fr Luke came to visit the Juniors and was really impressed by the behaviour and attitude of the children. You will recall that a child from each family brought home a collection box for the Catholic Children's Society so that money saved during Lent could be donated to this wonderful charity which does so much good for many children in our community. Please keep those boxes safe until we return to school: they will be just as grateful for the contents then.

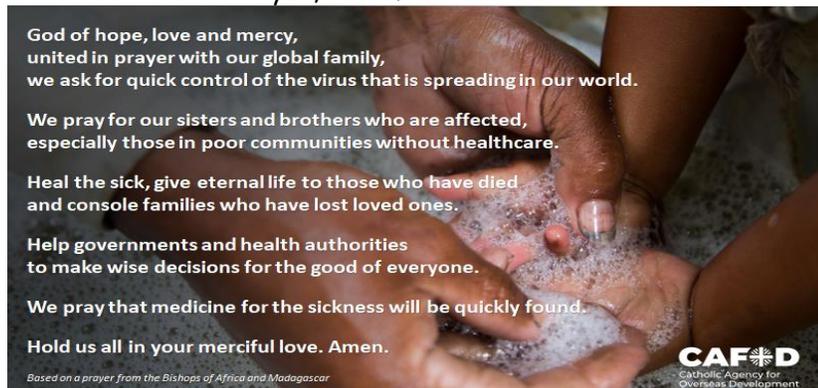
Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported Thursday Liturgy with us at the Infants. We hope that you continue to share the Gospel with your children at home.

Preparations began in Y5 for the Easter Reflection: our annual Passion Play shared outside with the St Mary's family and friends. The children in Elm, Sycamore and Birch knew their roles and the route they would take and are very sorry that they will not get the opportunity to share the Scripture and the Easter story with you. Our school community was able to come together, however, to make a contribution to the Food Bank at St Philomena's School. Many thanks to everyone who made a donation - this has been most appreciated.

We would usually come together during this final week of term, to pray the Stations of the Cross. Children at the Infants' would use the lovely school grounds, and Junior classes would visit each station in the grounds of St Philomena's. Many families would also visit their parish church on Good Friday. With the closures in place, you might like to use the following slides to share the stations at home.

<https://media.loyolapress.com/assets/lent/stations-eng/stations-eng.html>

In addition, here is a Lenten calendar <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-Calendar> and a Coronavirus Prayer, both from CAFOD.



In these times when our usual routine has been interrupted, it is helpful and healthy to give our life at home a rhythm, a regular pattern of work/study, exercise, relaxation and prayer. We all have things that we do at certain times of the day. Now that our churches are closed it is more important than ever that we make time for prayer in our day. We will each have our different way to do this, depending on our individual circumstances. Pray how you can, not how you can't! Here are some suggestions.

For a three-minute break from everything around you, you might like to try the following apps:

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/> (once online you will see it has been renamed pray as you stay!) or <https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer> They can also be viewed online without installing the app.

Spending time meditating on the Mass readings and discerning what God might be saying to you through them, using Lectio Divina, is an ancient way of praying. There's a guide for how to do this on www.IgnatianSpirituality.com.

Lent in Isolation is a website which is worth a visit. Amongst other things each day it offers a video of the daily Mass readings, spiritual guidance from a priest and the opportunity to make an act of spiritual communion. [Lent in Isolation](#)

Many churches are live streaming during the closures. Fr Paul (Holy Cross Church, Carshalton) can be seen, as he can every week, celebrating the Mass here: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/holy-cross-roman-catholic-church-carshalton> Copies of the Mass text and Palms, for Palm Sunday, are outside the church.

During this period of school closure, our nearest foodbanks are:

Sutton Foodbank <https://sutton.foodbank.org.uk> - Telephone 07525 838 640
Croydon Foodbank (Trussell Trust) Address: Pitlake, Croydon, CR0 3RA Tel: 0208 686 5664

Finally, on Sunday evenings you may have seen candles of hope in neighbours' windows. You can download a poster at https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/571658/Home/Coronavirus/Prayers_of_Hope.aspx. More details below.

Prayers of Hope - every Sunday at 7.00 pm

During the Coronavirus crisis thousands of Christians across Britain are praying together at 7.00 pm every Sunday evening.

This began on Sunday 22 March after the **Presidents of Churches Together in England issued a joint call to prayer**. The **response was phenomenal**.

To keep the prayer going, Churches Together in England is offering a poster to encourage #PrayersOfHope.



Lord, let me see with Your eyes and hear with Your ears,
That I may know what You are calling me to do.
Grant me the wisdom to guide my thoughts according to Your will, and
the grace to share Your love with others, no matter the
circumstances.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.



NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL

News from Nursery

In the Nursery we have enjoyed sharing the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes', having a real pancake race and eating our own pancakes with different toppings in class. On World Book Day the children and staff had fun dressing up and sharing their favourite stories.

As part of our Literacy learning we have enjoyed sharing and retelling the stories of 'Duck in a Truck' and 'A Squash and a Squeeze' with all the signs and actions. We have also been learning the new Jolly Phonic sounds 'i, d, m, n' and had fun making the actions and singing the songs whilst also listening for these sounds at the beginning of words and objects.

As part of our Math's learning we have had lots of fun exploring the new numbers 6,7,8,9 with the Numberblocks. We enjoyed counting a variety of objects to represent these numbers, and using the numerals to label these amounts. As part of our 'A Squash and a Squeeze' story we also enjoyed seeing how many children we could fit onto each piece of equipment on the trim trail and counting one more and one less.

News from Reception

In Reception we enjoyed the start of Lent by celebrating Shrove Tuesday. We read the story 'Mr Wolf's Pancakes' and we made a vote of our favourite toppings, we then placed our orders at the pancake cafe and enjoyed eating our pancakes 'All by ourselves'. We also received Ashes as part of our Ash Wednesday Mass.

We continued our Fairy Tale topic by exploring the stories of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'The Gingerbread Man'. We had lots of fun acting out the stories and joining in with the repetitive refrains. We also enjoyed our fairy tale themed World Book Day when all the children and staff had fun dressing up and sharing our favourite Fairy Tales.

In our Literacy learning we continued to learn our Phase 3 sounds. We also practised telling and writing our own stories using story maps and our character, setting, problem, solution planning sheets. We also changed the characters from familiar stories to make up our own.

In our Math's learning we focused on weighing different ingredients and items, and describing, ordering and comparing items by height. The children had fun measuring the different height giants and each other using a variety of materials e.g. bricks, cubes, string, large blocks etc. We also learnt the names of 3D shapes and described how many faces, edges and vertices (Corners) each shape had.

News from Year 1

We began our topic "Rio Da Vida" with a special meal to celebrate the end of our RE topic on Meals. The children enjoyed sharing lovely treats and discussed why different meals are special, we also learned that the Mass was a special meal that Jesus celebrated with his friends.

Our text this half term was The Great Kapok Tree. We enjoyed finding out about animals that live in the rainforest and how their world is being destroyed. We used the book as a starting point to our writing, using adjectives to describe different animals. World Book Day was great fun, we dressed up as our favourite book character and listened to stories read by other teachers.

In Math's we counted in 2s, 5s and 10s and also began our unit on measurement of length and height, we enjoyed taking this learning outside and measuring and comparing how tall we were. In science we learned

about our senses and were able to draw and label diagrams. In art we learned about the artist Pablo Picasso and enjoyed looking at and recreating our own abstract drawings.

News from Year 2

As detectives, we spent time exploring different parts of our town, where children were able to research and also create a poster on 'Carshalton'. Children took a lot of pride presenting their very interesting facts to the class.

World Book Day was also a highlight in this term. It was amazing to see all children making a lot of effort in the way they dressed up or the accessories they used to represent their character. They made a bookmark about their chosen book and also reviewed different books. We compared different stories and discussed how they were different.

In Math's, we learnt about 2D and 3D shapes where we named and described the properties of the shapes, comparing the number of edges, vertices and faces. We also recalled the 4 operations; add, subtract, multiply and divide, making sure we showed our working where necessary.

In Science, we learnt about Charles Macintosh and his invention, focusing on the materials used. When it comes to Geography, we learnt about different hot and cold areas of the world and also discussed the weather patterns in those countries. We represented this information on a block graph.

In RE we identified different parts of a Mass and also talked about the importance of giving thanks to God. We reflected on our Lenten promises and retold the Easter story.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

News from Year 3

In our final half term of our Stone Age topic, we have investigated what life was like for early settlers. We started our journey on moving monsters and exploring how air pressure can be used to control movement by using balloons and syringes. In English we looked at the layout and language features of instructions and explored what a noun, verb and adverb are. We then created our very own instructions, a recipe for a cake and how to go on a train journey. We looked at nutrition and what the differences are between nutrients and food groups. Over the course of the weekend the children recorded what they ate and this information was transformed into a bar graph, pie chart and food pyramid. For outdoor learning, and science, the children put together skeletons, using sticks, and they were asked to label them in a later lesson. In math's, we journeyed our way into measurement and recognised the relationship between centimetres, metres and millimetres. We have had a busy half term full of exciting learning. Best wishes to all the families in Year 3 and we hope you have a lovely Easter break and stay safe.

News from Year 4

Did anyone wake up feeling a little peculiar? Bill did - he woke up and found he was a girl! And you would not believe the injustice of a day in a dress, but year 4 does. We character studied Bill so well we wrote a diary entry of his day as a girl. We used the issues raised in the book in our PSHE lessons to look at the ways that we may live with stereotypes, and how we actively banish these on a daily basis in our actions and questions calling out colour assignment and generalisations based on gender. The children's views were enlightening to 'old' folk like us teachers!

Our geography learning has seen us develop our understanding of geographical regions of the UK and the physical features it contains. We then focused our learning on rivers and their characteristics. This was kicked

off by a visit from SES Water, who explained to us how water is a precious resource, even though the rain may make us doubt that sometimes! Our work on rivers and the water cycle is linking to our science work on states of matter, which we will continue to investigate after the Easter holiday.

Most notably this term we have learned to tell a story in French - please ask for a retelling at home!

News from Year 5

Is space exploration a waste of money? That was one piece of homework this half term, and you would be amazed at the number of different responses we got! Children in Y5 are now experts on the Earth, Moon and planets. Learning about the phases of the Moon (the name for how we see different amounts of the moon during approximately a month) was particularly enjoyable as it involved the dark and light parts of Oreos biscuits! Not wanting to be wasteful, we then had to eat our resources...

A parcel arrived in Y5 too this half term. The letter and items inside required all of our comprehension skills to make inferences about who might have sent it and it appears we have a few detectives in the making. The mystery was solved when we began reading *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo: the boy in the story was at boarding school and the parcel had been for him.

We have been learning a lot about fractions this half term in math's. We can add, subtract, multiply, find fractions of amounts and, importantly, persevere when we find things hard.

We had started to prepare the Easter Reflection for our school community. Rehearsals were going well and we are deeply saddened that we will not get to share the Passion of Jesus with you all. Using a map of the school grounds, our Bibles and an outline of the events of Holy Week, we all worked together to be able to tell you the story. This time was not wasted: it allowed us to explore these events together and to think deeply about the best way of showing the events. We hope to find some links to share which show previously performed Passion Plays from around the world.

Like Y4, we too learned to tell a story in French... and then made changes to it and created our own stories. Please ask for a retelling at home- with actions!

News from Year 6

Within our English lessons in year 6 this half term, we have continued reading our driver text, 'Clockwork', written by Philip Pullman. This has kept the classes engaged as we delved into the unique storytelling style he has. The children have used this text to write as the Burgomaster (town's mayoral figure) to inform and advise the citizens of Glockenheim of a mysterious character lurking in its mists and give some advice on how to keep themselves alert. This character unusually appeared at the entrance to the tavern when he was being described in the story that was being read. Ask your child to give you a description of this sinister character, Dr Kalmenius.

In math's, we moved onto learning about measure within this half term - this is something the children can be really using at home in context - baking with ingredients ensuring they are weighing the items, measuring the length and height of various objects around the house - not forgetting to estimate first of course! Try and find some creative ways to put your measuring skills to the test with mass, capacity and length.

An event always thoroughly enjoyed in the second part of spring term was World Book Day. The children did not disappoint with their resourceful costumes- they dressed imaginatively and really thought about creating part of their costumes using other things from around the home. The school joined together for a World Book

Day assembly where we celebrated costumes, in addition, we held a book marathon across the phases so the children were able to enjoy 'George's Marvellous Medicine' read by the teachers of year 5 and 6 in haste, but this is always a firm favourite of the day.

Wishing you all a happy, holy Easter.

E-Safety -

YouTube

It is important during this time that we are kept safe online. During this time many of you may be looking at technology in different ways in order to communicate with family and friends and that children will spend more time on YouTube. Please have a look at this link by Alan Mackenzie from 'The Association of Adult and Child Online Safety Specialist' on tips and features about using YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YvIfw7obwE&feature=youtu.be>

Children's Commissioner and NHS - 5 Steps to mental wellbeing

Digital 5 a day useful guide giving parents and children easy to follow and practical steps to achieve a healthy and balanced digital diet.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/our-work/digital/5-a-day/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing/>



Houseparty App

This app has been around for years, but has just reached number 1 in the download charts, suggesting that more children and young people are using it to communicate and socialise.

Wayne Denner has put together an article which will be of use to parents. The article is <https://www.waynedenner.com/blog/why-is-everyone-using-the-houseparty-app/>

WHAT IS HOUSEPARTY?
 Houseparty is a live streaming app developed as a fun way for friends and family to connect and chat. It allows users to create group conversations of up to eight people at one time. Each group conversation is hosted by one of the group members. As part of this conversation, users can chat, share photos, videos, and screen share. However, users must be 13+ to use the app. There is no proof of age required to create an account.

HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE USE IT?
 Each time the app is opened, your child will be instantly connected to a group conversation. The app allows users to create group conversations of up to eight people at one time. Each group conversation is hosted by one of the group members. As part of this conversation, users can chat, share photos, videos, and screen share. However, users must be 13+ to use the app. There is no proof of age required to create an account.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HOUSEPARTY

- STRANGER DANGER:** Parents should be aware of the risks of strangers contacting their children through the app. Parents should encourage their children to only accept friend requests from people they know and to report any suspicious activity to a parent.
- SEXUALISED MESSAGES:** Parents should be aware of the risks of receiving sexualised messages through the app. Parents should encourage their children to report any such messages to a parent.
- CONTENT BEING SHARED:** Parents should be aware of the risks of inappropriate content being shared through the app. Parents should encourage their children to report any such content to a parent.
- CYBERBULLYING:** Parents should be aware of the risks of cyberbullying through the app. Parents should encourage their children to report any such incidents to a parent.
- OVERSHARING PERSONAL INFORMATION:** Parents should be aware of the risks of oversharing personal information through the app. Parents should encourage their children to be cautious about sharing personal information.
- IN-APP PURCHASES:** Parents should be aware of the risks of in-app purchases through the app. Parents should encourage their children to be cautious about making in-app purchases.
- TURN ON PRIVATE MODE:** Parents should be aware of the risks of not having private mode turned on. Parents should encourage their children to turn on private mode.
- SAFER CONVERSATIONS:** Parents should be aware of the risks of unsafe conversations through the app. Parents should encourage their children to use the app safely.
- CHECK COMMUNICATIONS:** Parents should be aware of the risks of not checking communications through the app. Parents should encourage their children to check communications.
- LOCK ROOMS:** Parents should be aware of the risks of not locking rooms through the app. Parents should encourage their children to lock rooms.
- PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY:** Parents should be aware of the risks of not protecting their privacy through the app. Parents should encourage their children to protect their privacy.
- PROTECTING YOUR CHILD'S DIGITAL FOOTPRINT:** Parents should be aware of the risks of not protecting their child's digital footprint through the app. Parents should encourage their children to protect their digital footprint.
- REMOVE LINKS TO OTHER APPS:** Parents should be aware of the risks of not removing links to other apps through the app. Parents should encourage their children to remove links to other apps.
- BE PRESENT:** Parents should be aware of the risks of not being present through the app. Parents should encourage their children to be present.
- REPORTING AND BLOCKING:** Parents should be aware of the risks of not reporting and blocking through the app. Parents should encourage their children to report and block.



ParentZone

Need some more support in keeping your child safe online? Have a look at ParentZone which is designed to help parents facing challenges in this digital age.

<https://parentzone.org.uk/parents>

Here are some other great E-Safety links -

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
- <http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/>
- <http://www.internetmatters.org/>
- <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/>
- <http://www.childnet.com/>
- <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

PSHE Association

During this challenging time, it is important to stay together as a community to keep others feeling supported and positive. Thank you to all the children who have been in touch to say they have put their rainbow of hope and love in their window at home. The children who have been in school created more rainbows and messages of hope which are displayed outside our school to spread happiness to our community for those who pass. As they were being put up on the fence, a few members of the public took pictures of the heartwarming messages and pictures with a big smile on their face. These rainbows will continue to spread joy amongst our community.

In Year 2 this term we have been researching about our local community and understanding how our school comes together. We spent time looking into our school's PTA and how the fundraising events have benefited us and improved our environment. We began to write down questions to the PTA/Governors of our school but sadly due to school closing this activity was not completed. There is a section in Google Classroom where children can post their questions and we can try to get their questions answered. It is really important for children to understand how school works and the amazing community we belong to.

School Travel plan

We had a great start to the term with "Weekend Walkies" up and running. It was wonderful to see the adventures you have been taking part in at home and showing evidence of that in your class books. The children have enjoyed showing and sharing their weekend adventures to the class. Thank you to everyone's ongoing support at home. Even though schools are closed, "weekend walkies" has kept going online! Please continue to leave your comments in Google Classrooms with what active activities you have been taking part in. Remember this does not need to involve going outside but instead you can be creative at home. The morning PE with Jo Wicks has been a great resource to use and cosmic yoga but remember to be imaginative such as dancing, circuits, home workouts etc.

The "Active 10" Challenge is a new challenge that has already begun. If you have not heard about this, then look online in your Google Classroom. This challenge involves a brisk walk for 10 minutes a day for 10 days. Again this can simply involve walking on the spot or laps around your house/garden if you do not wish to go outside. Please leave your name of Google Classroom to show if you have managed to complete the challenge. In week 2 and week 3 of the challenge the time will increase so let's keep going! The app can also be downloaded which is free and helps you to track your progress. Walk your way to health!



Google Classes over Easter

Whilst we thank the staff for posting work on Google for the children to complete over the last couple of weeks, we are now in the Easter period therefore these will resume as the new term commences from 20th April. Thank you for keeping the children on task at home.

Wellbeing for Families

Please see a link from ParentZone about Wellbeing for families.

https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-look-after-your-family%E2%80%99s-mental-health-when-you%E2%80%99re-stuck-indoors?utm_source=Parent+Zone+Newsletter&utm_campaign=e53736f60f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_03_10_47&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1ee27d9000-e53736f60f-179206353

COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

Please see below a link from the Government on guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Kew Gardens – Learning at Home

At Kew Gardens their curriculum-linked resources are now available as easy-to-follow downloads, helping KS1-5 pupils keep on track with learning at home.

While the garden gates to Kew and Wakehurst are temporarily closed, the schools team has been working hard (from home) to make our [digital learning resources](#) even more accessible to teachers and pupils.

Studies have observed that just looking at a picture of green space can reduce stress levels. If you're in need of escapism, head over to [our blog](#) where we continue to share stories, pictures and films that showcase the beauty of our botanic gardens.

Why not try out some of their lovely activities, whilst learning at home.