



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

"A place of learning – A community of Christ"

8th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Well here we go! I was convinced back in September that they would never close primary schools again. How wrong could I have been? However, my message to everyone is don't panic. The most important thing is that we get through another challenging period looking after our own sanity and our children's mental health. Although children might not make as much progress as they would in school, we know that when they get back they will catch up very quickly.

In the recent assessments that the children did before Christmas, across the 128 children in Key Stage 2 their results project that they will get the following results at the end of Key Stage 2:

	Expected +	Greater Depth
Reading	93% (73%)	48% (27%)
Maths	94% (79%)	48% (27%)

(The brackets are the National averages in 2019 the last time children sat Key Stage 2 SATs.)

This data just shows how quickly children can catch up when they are back. **This is an incredible school, with incredible staff, incredible parents and most importantly incredible children.** Parents must remember that they can only do what they can. We are acutely aware that there are less parents furloughed this time and more parents are working which increases the pressure on family life. First and foremost you must maintain a happy HOME SCHOOL!

We are currently putting together a timetable of live lessons. We are really conscious of the fact that many families are sharing computers and we are attempting to ensure that these lessons don't overlap. These lessons will probably look slightly different this time as we have found it is better if we start with a 10/15 minute meeting where the teacher demonstrates something then send the children off to work for half an hour and have another meeting after this for the children to feedback how they have got on. We are trying to make it more of a learning experience and less social which means it may well be much more teacher led.

As well as the live lessons, the teachers are working on using some other features of Office 365 such as recording videos which can be shared in Class Notebooks or on Microsoft Teams and using Microsoft Forms to set up quizzes for the children. We have the advantage this time round that the staff are generally working from school rather than home which helps them to learn off each other.

As a staff, we are trying really hard to get the work onto the website or distributed shortly after the end of each day. However, please bear with us. We have a lot more critical workers this time around which means the teachers are often balancing in class and remote provision simultaneously. This has increased their workload and means that often they are having to plan after school for the next day. For the younger children, I will send a message to the parents when all the classwork is on the website each day.


I will also be doing a live assembly on a Monday and Friday and might throw in a few other surprises along the way.

All in all, we are trying lots of new things and hopefully we will develop the online learning even further this time round, bringing the children new and exciting opportunities. However, none of this should be adding extra stress - please remember there is no pressure from us. The most important thing is your children's and your own mental health. We can direct you to plenty of additional resources to fill up the day, and access to doodlemaths, doodleenglish and accelerated reader is always available. However, it is not healthy and quite tiring for them to be online for too long. We will completely understand if work is not completed, left until later as you balance life around your own work pressures, or even if you need to take a day's break from it all.

Finally, please remember your children are allowed out for exercise one to one. They could walk with you, or independently with a friend if they are older. It is really important that your children get some fresh air safely particularly if they are at home all week.

Just remember, we have done this before and we will do it again. If you are struggling at all and need anything, moral support, financial support, someone to get some food because you are isolating then please get in touch. As a Catholic school we are here to support you as families in more ways than just your children's education.

God bless,

M. Hold 

Parent's Consultation

Monday's parent consultation seems such a long time ago. It was such a shame it wasn't face to face but in the light of this new lockdown it was probably the right thing to do. We hope you were pleased with your children's progress.



Microsoft Teams

Please could parents remind the children to only post on Microsoft Teams when it is absolute necessary. If the children post too much, the really useful questions and answers get lost. It is not for a general chat.

Also, could everyone remember to give the teacher's registration comment the Thumbs Up as we are using this to ensure all the children are engaged and also help us to identify where families are having problems.

Thank you

Epiphany

Wednesday was the Epiphany. A day when we celebrate the three kings finding Jesus after a long journey. A time to remember that it can take a long time to get to the end of any journey and the rewards that are often at the end. As we move on our current journey through this pandemic, let us hold onto the fact that although the road will be long the rewards at the end are great. We will certainly appreciate our freedoms more.

