

Headteacher's Newsletter

3 April 2020

Christian Value for this half term:

Justice

JUSTICE

**'Learn to do right.
Seek justice.'**

Isaiah 1.17

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to the April newsletter. Well this is a strange newsletter to be writing, as school is shut for most children. As you know, school is open for children where both parents are key workers (or one parent is a key worker in a single parent family) and for vulnerable children. This is the second week that schools

across the country have been closed for education, and have reopened as childcare in order to support services in the fight against Covid-19.

Easter is upon us and it all appears to have gone in a blur. The Easter story brings many challenges to our door relating to faith and the attitudes with which we face our lives. Now more than ever we are facing some of the greatest challenges of our lives.

If a bottle is full to the half-way point is it half-full or half-empty? Of course, it depends on how you look at it. This is a good image, I think, for how people look at life: some focus on all the things that are going wrong and wake each day with a sense of dread, while others focus on the things that are going right and give thanks for the things that they are grateful for. It was like this for the characters in the Easter story; as the disciples and followers of Jesus lost hope and saw their world crashing down around them only Jesus could see the positive side of events as they unfolded. He faced his death with serenity because he knew that his suffering was part of a bigger plan and that he would rise again.

Christians believe that on the first Easter Sunday, Jesus rose again. He came back to life, defying the expectations of his friends and his enemies. We also believe that that in this event good overcame evil, life is stronger than death, light shines through the darkness and the half-full bottle is superior to the half-empty bottle.

And that's the challenge for us: if we believe in the resurrection we need to take the half-full approach to life. Life undoubtedly has its challenges for each and every one of us during this pandemic but with a belief that the bottle is at least half-full we can tackle those challenges head on and overcome them.

Best wishes,
Mrs Graham
Headteacher



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Home Learning

Staff have worked rapidly to respond to the very short notice that we were closing. Although we had prepared



some work for the children in advance nothing prepared us for what was to come. As ever, staff at St. Catherine's have responded with enthusiasm with a 'what can I do to help?' attitude. It was all hands on deck to get learning packs printed off and handed out to children who were still in school. An army of volunteers delivered packs to families who were already self isolating. Mrs Kay's brilliant knowledge of Horwich came in very handy!

Moving forward we are now preparing for school closure for education to be longer term. As such we have developed a Virtual School, with Virtual Classrooms, for after Easter. We will share how to access this with you when we return as we are still busy populating the site ready for the children. Nursery and reception children will still use Tapestry, and there will be daily English and maths activities as well as weekly ones for other areas of learning.

The Virtual Classrooms will have a daily video message from your child's class teacher as well as the day's learning in English and maths. There will also be learning in other subjects for the week too, to be completed at your own

Primary School Offers

We are awaiting further information on when the offers will be sent out by Bolton Council. The planned date of 16th April still stands at the moment but we will let families know should this change.

Book Fair and World Book Day

pace.

We know how challenging it is supporting your children at home. Teaching children isn't easy, and teaching your own deserves a medal! We also are aware that many parents and carers are working from home, trying to juggle that alongside supporting your children with their learning.

Do what you can, don't put undue pressure on yourselves, take breaks, ask for help if you need it (there is a 'click to contact' button for each year group) and take care of yourself. This isn't education as we know it so don't worry about your child not making the same progress as they might have done in school. We're all in this together and when we return we will ensure that all our children are supported to get back on track. This is a marathon, not a sprint. We're still here for you all, just spread across Bolton and surrounding areas!

Art Exhibition



Our planned art exhibition was due to take place yesterday. Many classes had already

completed—or started—their masterpieces. We have every intention of holding an art exhibition—we just don't know when this will be. What we do know is that when this DOES happen it will be a fantastic time to come together as a school community.

Keeping in contact

Staff are working hard to keep lines of communication open so that we still feel like we belong to the wonderful community that is St. Catherine's CE Primary school.

There is a daily Twitter message from me as Headteacher (what you see is what you get—don't expect the National Theatre!). Teachers on Tapestry and the Virtual School will be putting out daily video messages to the children too. There is a dedicated email address for each class on the Virtual Classroom where you can share with the teacher what work the children have done (no pressure—it's only if you want to!)

We are really keen to find out what you're up to at home. Twitter is a great way to share and we endeavour to respond to them all. If you don't have a Twitter account now is the perfect time to set one up and to follow us @StCathsHorwich. We love seeing the children and what they have been up to, as well as sharing that with others!

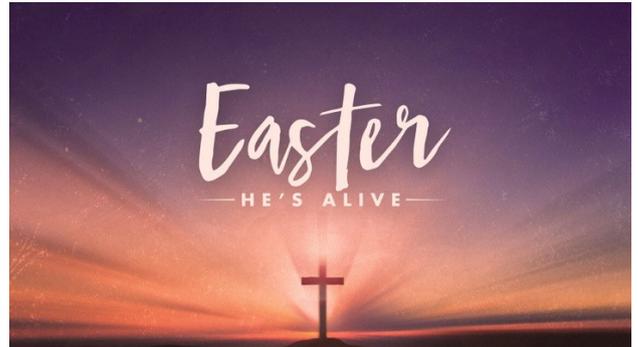
And finally...

We miss you all terribly. We are a strong school community which thrives on social interaction each and every day. We miss the chatter, the fun, the laughter and the love that is shared between us. The government is doing everything they can to protect us during the Covid-19 pandemic and we look forward to throwing open our doors once more in safer times.

When we are in school the bell still rings for Collective Worship and break time. We look forward to filling the corridors with children and staff, piling into the hall to celebrate together, watching children running around the playground with their friends.

Most of all we are looking forward to having everyone back together. Safely.

Easter Service



As I type this we would have been in church for a wonderful celebration of Easter together. Please take the time to celebrate Holy week as a family. Create a cross together for the window and look up online services. There are lots out there!

Forthcoming events

Table with 2 columns and 12 rows for listing forthcoming events.

