



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School (NC)
Gumbleberrys Close, Off Cotterills Lane,
Stechford, Birmingham B8 2PS

NEWSLETTER

28th April 2020

Inside this issue:

General news

Free School Meals

Website

Nursery

Working from home

School Prayer

This is our school;

Let peace live here;

Let the rooms be full of
happiness;

Let love live here.

Love of God,

Love of one another

And love of life itself.

Let us remember

That as many hands
build a house,

So many hearts make a
School.

Amen.



1 Good afternoon to you all. I hope this letter finds you well, safe and relatively sane. I wanted to write to you all to tell you how much I miss you and your children and to explain what we have been doing in school during the lock down.

2 We are, as the government asked of us, open to children of key workers and other children and families in our school community who may need additional support at this time. We have on average between 15-20 children a day. We worked through the Easter Holidays and Bank Holidays and have had children in everyday.

2 The staff work in three teams, with Mr Wilson, Mrs Hodson, Mr Gallagher, Mr Samuels and myself on site throughout the lockdown. Staff work a week in school and then complete other tasks at home, such as set work, get administrative work completed and like you try to keep calm and sane.

Mr Wilson, Mrs Hodson, Mr Gallagher, Mr Samuels and myself phone each family once a week. We have completed home visits, delivered work and letters, held meetings with other agencies, worked on ordering Free School Meal Vouchers each week (more of that later) and ensure that families are safe and well. In these times, please do not be afraid to contact the school if you require help of any kind, be it technical with the school work online or concerns about your child or yourself. We are here to help and try to make things easier for you.

The children who have attended school have been an absolute credit and the staff have rallied together to support me in ensuring everything is in place.

By the end of this week, I will have written to every class and have been delighted to receive letters from children across the school. We are trying to fill our hall windows with pictures of rainbows so if your child wants to complete one and send it in we will put it up in school.

It is very difficult to know what to write in this letter but I can share my experience; in the last 6-8 weeks I have experienced sadness, worry and great joy. There has been a moment of laughter in everyday—often through talking to you on the phone or things that have happened in school. One day I will tell you all about it! I have worried about children, families and staff and constantly questioned and reviewed whether I/we are doing enough; and like you all I worry about my loved ones. My dad had cancer last year and has been told to self isolate for 12 weeks—it is very strange talking to him and my mum from the front garden whilst I drop shopping off and I miss my brothers and nieces and nephews; but have found great joy in writing to them and facetimeing them—although a three year old doesn't make much sense over the phone!

There have also been moments of great sadness; life continues on, regardless of the current situation and we have had families who have experienced loss away from the coronavirus and we have had two of our pupils lose their aunty to the coronavirus, which is heartbreakingly sad.

Throughout it all I keep you in my prayers and I never lose faith or hope. I know that this will pass and that we will all be together again—I just don't know when!

School Website

We have tried to put some information for SEND parents on our website under the Coronavirus section.

If I receive any new notifications or information then we will make sure we add this to the website as well.

We will also add a list of phone numbers and contacts that you may find useful during this time.

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat

their own fruit;

the sun does not shine on itself; flowers do not spread

their own fragrance

for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature.

We are all born to help each other.

No matter how difficult it is

... life is good when you are

happy;

but much better when others are happy because of you.

Let us all remember then

that every changing colour of

a leaf is beautiful and every

changing situation of life is

meaningful, both need very

clear vision.

So do not grumble or complain,

let us instead remember that Pain is a sign that

we are alive, Problems are a

sign that we are strong and

Prayer is a sign that we are

not alone. If we can

acknowledge these truths

and condition our hearts and

minds, our lives will be more

meaningful, different and

worthwhile." **Pope Francis**

Free School Meals

I will try and explain the situation in regards to free school meals. All infant children are eligible for something called universal meals—this is policy in which the government fund all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to have a meal in school; however this is not the same as being eligible for Free School Meals.

Free School Meals depends upon your financial status, benefits etc. We have a system in school in which we can check to see if you are eligible; it is a school system, not connected to any outside agencies and is confidential. During this time some parents have contacted us to say they think they are eligible for Free School Meals but aren't on our list. However we can check by having your name and National Insurance Number; and we have discovered that 3 or 4 children are eligible that aren't on our list. If you think you may be eligible but aren't receiving vouchers then please phone the school and speak to us and we can check.

For those of you receiving vouchers, we are now using the government scheme. They are using a company called **Edenred** and this is who you receive an email from. Please do check your junk and also search for **Edenred** when looking for the email.

Most families should have received one voucher from Edenred with another due at the end of this week or early next week. Obviously if you have any problems just contact us and we will try to help.

For those families not eligible but struggling we can provide food and hampers, so please just phone the office at school and we will get it sorted.

Nursery September 2020

Regardless of what is happening I still have to think about the new school year. We still have spaces in our Nursery for September 2020. If you phone the school we can send out the application to you. If you know of anyone who has a child who is 3 by September let them know about our wonderful Nursery.

School work from home

Firstly let me say we completely understand that you are not teachers and it is unrealistic to expect you to be able to teach your child as we would in school.

We have set up work for each class on BGFL and for many children this has been a good tool to use; there is also bbc bitesize and many other educational resources that you can use.

If you haven't got the technology for your children to work on bgfl then we are happy to print off work packs and post or deliver them to you. If you have technical difficulties then Mr Wilson and Mr Gallagher are my bgfl technical wizards and you can contact them at school to help you solve any problem.

What I would say to you all is, please read with your children and get them to read to you. Discuss programmes and books you have read and work on number and times tables. These are fundamentally

