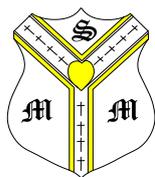


Saint Margaret Mary's Catholic Infant School Newsletter



Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents, children and friends,

I hope you are all well, safe and happy.

Today is the first of May. May is a day to celebrate the coming of Spring and Summer. In Ancient times, people decorated their home with spring flowers, danced, sang and celebrated. Today, is also the feast of St Joseph, the husband of Mary, Jesus' Mother. In the Bible, he is a stoic, caring presence in many of the stories of the early times in Jesus' life.

In the next few days, you will receive an email from your child's class teacher and an invitation to email them any questions you may have about school work, but also to send photos of work that your child has completed. We hope that you find this service useful and supportive. Please keep in mind, that all our staff are also in school several days a week and are completing other work at home. Please be patient in waiting for replies, as these may take a few days. Please be mindful, that this service is only for enquiries about school work and will end once we return to school.

Lots of love,

Mrs Byrne

Knowsley Council Early Help Hub

We know that some families may be finding it stressful and harder to cope during these difficult times. We don't want people to struggle and we have a team of staff who can talk you through any issues and offer you some advice and guidance.

Contact the Freephone helpline on **0800 073 0043** and ask for your information to be passed on to the Early Help Hub and one of our staff will call you back.

Or you could complete the online form by clicking the ask for help and support on this link <https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/community-hub/>

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR KEY WORKERS

It is vitally important that we know when and if you wish your child to attend emergency childcare in school. Please complete the surveys which are sent out. This will ensure that we have the correct staffing each day and as many of our staff can stay safely at home.

Here is the link for the week beginning 11th May;
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M6NTD3X>





St Margaret Mary's Parish Online

Although the church buildings are closed the work of the Church continues in a different way. The Church is the people. It is us. Father Ian is still saying Mass each day and Sunday Mass is broadcast live each Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

If you are on **Facebook**, the parish now has a page which is updated regularly and where Mass is broadcast each Sunday.

Search 'St Margaret Mary Liverpool'.

'Twas the night before lockdown ©

'Twas the night before lockdown, when all through the school, every teacher was creating their home learning tools. The laptops were charged, the website prepared, in hopes that objectives could still be shared.

The children were panicked, worries flooded their heads, while hundreds of rainbows quickly did spread. And parents sat down with wine in their hands, and looked at all that the teachers had planned.

When on the tv there became such a clatter, Mr. Johnson appeared to say what was the matter. Away to the couches, they flew like a flash, turned up the volume and came out in a rash.

The news on the tele of COVID-19, became so serious that it prompted the Queen. She gave a speech and addressed the nation, she told us that one day there would be celebration.

With Great British spirit and of course, fear, rainbows and teddies reached far and near. More rapid than COVID this team-spirit spread, and whilst still social distancing, there was hope ahead.

"Now Hancock! Now, Gove! Now, Raab and Whitty! On, Williamson! On Harries! On Sunak - come quickly! To the top of this mountain, however great or small! Now dash away, work away, wash germs away all!"

As people with hope and determination fly high, be like the rainbow that brightens up the sky. So, join in your conferences and meetings on Zoom, and try not to get caught up in all the doom and gloom.

And soon, in a tinkling, we heard on the net, the data and statistics - the speed of the threat. As we held onto our loved ones and trusted the press, we followed advice - to stay home and not stress.

We dressed in our pjs, and sat at our desks, exploring the challenges the teachers had set. A bundle of websites had made resources free, which made it easier for parents and kids to agree.

Then it was Easter - the bunny was no shirker, we were glad when he announced that he was a keyworker. Eggs were delivered by doorstep-and-drop, and the bellies of children would soon start to pop.

The holidays came and went but not the sun, it stayed to remind us that we could still have fun. If we stayed in our gardens and took some time out, we'd rediscover what life was truly about!

We'd make time for our families and slow the clock down, and become closer to people from all over town. As the world fell apart, people came together, and began to believe that this wasn't forever.

So from a distance, people got straight to work, from hospitals to shops - the world went berserk. With people all pulling together with care, from post office, to bin lorries or from the armchair.

We sprang to the challenge, Boris gave us the nod, and we tried every day to put our hope in God. His promise of the rainbow, the hope that it brings, "Go on kids, go get 'em, grow new kinds of wings!"

By Rachel Lancashire and Iona, a teacher and pupil at St Mary's, Newton-le-Willows



How to talk to children about keeping in touch with family and friends during the coronavirus separation

1. **Be Honest-** Explain that the virus affects older people differently than children. The virus is more likely to spread when people are together in the same place. By not seeing them it helps you from getting the virus and getting sick and helps them too.
2. **Let them know that this is only temporary-** You will be able to spend time with each other again once the spread of the virus has slowed down or ceased.
3. **Validate their feelings-** Reassure them that it is ok to miss people and invite them to share their feelings. Express how you are feeling too.
4. **Talk regularly-** Express your love even if you're not in the same place. Talk frequently by phone or by video chat through WhatsApp, Skype, Facetime etc. Share one happy thing that you saw, ate or did today, give a compliment or share a riddle or joke.
5. **Organise a remote "play date"-**Schedule time to connect remotely at the same time on a regular basis so there is something to look forward to. You can draw or do other art activities, read a story, sing a song, play a game, organise a quiz.