



We love We pray We learn We play.
 Newsletter 1st May 2020 Pentecost 1 term : Feast of St Joseph the Worker

Dear Parents and Carers

Our heartfelt thanks and round of applause  for being brilliant teachers and enabling the children to continue learning at home. We miss everyone greatly, but have loved seeing the work and creative activities on the home-work email account, Class Dojo or Twitter feed.

Children you are stars! You have shown so many of our Route to Resilience characteristics: creativity, patience, determination, problem solving and enjoyment to name a few. We look forward to when the school can reopen fully and we can see you all again.

Stay Safe, God Bless - all the Blessings of Eastertide.
 Thank you for your support.

Miss Jordan and all the Staff at St Mary's School

NDCYS: Big Schools

We hope you can or have joined up for the first Big Schools Get Together, this Friday the 1st of May. ndcys.com/gettogether
 Although we cannot attend Mass at the moment there is daily prayer and reflection on the NDCYS site and links on the school website on the RE and Chaplaincy pages.

School Re- opening

The Government/Department for Education have not yet published any guidance on when schools will reopen. Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education stated yesterday that schools would be given advance notice. He also stated that it is likely that schools would have to open in phases, with either younger or older children returning first. During this period of closure, in addition to setting and providing feedback for the work of our pupils remotely, we are planning for reopening whenever we are asked to do it. This planning is being coordinated by our Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, and is being done in conjunction with our Local Authority. We are ensuring that we have premises that are ready to safely accommodate our pupils and staff when we are asked to do so, and that we are ready to resume formal education for our pupils. We will keep you informed of any developments; taking into consideration parent's working patterns and also sibling requirements.

Recommended work on Class Pages

The Staff and I thank you for supporting your children at home to work. We appreciate all feedback given.

Although we cover a great deal of the curriculum within one day in school, we don't expect the same amount in one day at home and understand how difficult it can be. The work on class pages are recommended, with suggestions given for how long children should spend. Teachers have set activities following the curriculum plans for this term that they would have been teaching in class. The English and Maths activities would be a good daily focus, with the other subjects 'could' areas to do. Children work at different levels and speeds. That's fine- we don't want them or you being worried that they haven't completed it all and know they may struggle without the teaching input. With the children at school, we have completed the work from class pages in the morning and then had creative or play activities in the afternoon. We are here to help!

You are doing a Fantastic job!

Learning at home Survey

It has been very positive to see the uptake of so much of the work by the pupils. In order to ensure that the work we are setting is as accessible and appropriate as it can be, I would be very grateful if you could complete a short online survey, which will take 5-10 minutes at most. Any feedback you are able to give will be really appreciated by the staff. The link is also on the website home page.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6X6A372YaE24KJDknNKQ_V0ZMhw8zEtMtG7IjYdYeG9hUNKUxRUpNOFYyS1gORUc0WERENEozQlgwWC4u

Year Six Secondary Transition

Year 6 teachers will be working with Year 7 Heads of Years and Pastoral Heads over the next two weeks to provide information and a way to plan transition to Secondary school.

3 more Route To Resilience Character muscles you could encourage the children at home to use.

Determination: To continue to try to do something even though it is difficult.

Patience: The ability to accept or tolerate delay, trouble or suffering without getting angry or upset.

Pride/ Proud: A feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction from our own or other's achievements.

YEAR TWO, YEAR SIX SATS, YEAR ONE Phonics Screening

The school is very proud of the hard work and revision children have completed. We will still celebrate this upon return to school. On the 20th of April, the DFE confirmed it would not be collecting any primary data at the end of this Academic Year and the tests will not be held. All assessments will be for internal school use only and will acknowledge the extraordinary circumstances in which we see ourselves. Teachers will assess pupils based on their actual achievement to the time school closed and their predicted level from their teacher assessments. In Year One, Year Two and Year Six, schools are required to complete a teacher assessment, predicting the most likely end grade for pupils using the broad knowledge gathered about individuals during the academic year for SATS or the phonics screening.

Gardening week / VE celebrations



National Gardening Week 2020 is held between **April 27th and May 3rd** and is run by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) to raise awareness of gardening and horticulture, and to encourage more people to take part in the healthy and productive outdoor activity of gardening. Although there has been a lot of rain, we would love to see the gardening/ growing that children may have done.

On Friday 8 May 2020, the Bank holiday - Britain will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day when the guns fell silent at the end of war in Europe, this will be a Bank Holiday. Staff will be posting some VE activities, which children may like to do next week. You can make your own special VE Day 75 'Great British Bunting' to display in your window at home. The BBC has instructions on how to make the bunting. There will not be any work on class pages on Friday the 8th of May, as it is a Bank holiday. We hope you can find a way to enjoy the Bank holiday.

How does my school support parents and carers keep their children safe online?

In their regular communications with parents and carers, schools should emphasise the importance of parents and carers securing any online support for their children from a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children. Read [further information for parents and carers](#). Any online resources we use are to supplement the work on class pages and are from trusted organisations. These are optional and do not need to be completed each day – such as the Maths Rock Stars for times tables practice. Relevant online links are on the home page of the website.

[A list of online educational resources](#) which have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts to help pupils to learn at home

There is guidance to [help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) outbreak. There is also enhanced education provision from the [BBC to include daily lessons](#) starting from 20 April 2020. An online resource from [Oak National Academy](#) with daily lessons available to both primary and secondary pupils: class teachers will advise which videos supplement the class work. Please do call the school if you do not have access to a laptop or the internet, as we can provide paper copies to help.

Catholic Life

At the beginning of this school year our bishop, Bishop Patrick McKinney, asked schools to help their communities to develop their relationships with God and with each other through the themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship, one theme for each term. The theme for this term is Missionary Discipleship.

In this theme we are encouraged to think about how we can be the face of Christ for others, how we can actively spread the Word and love of God to others by being outwardly facing Christians. In the difficult times we are in, this seems as important a thing to do as ever, albeit possibly more challenging given our current situation.

As a Diocese, we will be having a focus on Missionary Discipleship for the rest of this term in an effort to ensure our children and young people are still thinking about and reflecting on some of the things they would have been if they were still at school. It will also be a powerful way for us to come together to have a positive impact on our communities and to share this good news as a diocese. It will hopefully be another way of keeping us all feeling connected as a Diocesan family.

Each week, during the live streamed '9.30am Club' on Monday mornings, on the Youtube channel 'NDCYSLive', there will be a short video exploring how we can be Missionary Disciples right now, with an action for young people to complete. Please get involved by sending a photo or short video of your child completing the action to me by emailing tshannon@aquinas-cmat.org. A selection of these will be shown on the other NDCYS live streamed show, 'Friday Night Live' at 6pm.

We hope that this will be a powerful way of encouraging staff and students to be a positive influence in the lives of those around them and in their communities, whilst also being able to share and celebrate this at a diocesan level.

Please do have a go at the action each week and send me a photo or short video which we can be used in the live stream on Friday. Your submissions will need to be with me by Thursday each week to be able to feature live on YouTube on 'Friday Night Live'.

I hope this is something which you and your child/children will enjoy getting involved with.
Stay safe and God bless,

Tom Shannon
Lead Lay Chaplain
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust