



Good morning parents/carers,

Monday 4th May 2020

I wanted to ensure I continued to communicate with you as much as possible during these very strange and difficult times. I hope everyone has been able to have some enjoyable family time over Easter recalling the amazing sacrifice that Jesus gave for each of us.

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY



As we now begin the month of May our thoughts turn to that of Our Lady Mary, the mother of Jesus and a very special person in the life of the church.

We try to think about what made Mary so special that God chose her to be the mother of his son Jesus – what virtues and special characteristics stand out through Mary's life?

We try to devote some time each day or each week to pray to Mary, to think how we are using the example she gave us in the way we treat each other. Please post on the class dojo pages any devotion you are giving to Mary this month – pictures of special

times praying together, a small area in your home with flowers for Mary. We would be doing these things in school if we were able to be together.

CHANGE IN A TRAINING DAY FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR:

I wanted to give you plenty of notice of a change in one of the training days that the staff have in school next year and the pupils are at home. Previously we had shared that the school would be closed on Monday 2nd November, straight after October half term for staff training. However, this date has had to change so that it is in line with all other Catholic Primary and Secondary schools for a joint training day. **Following consultation with the governors this has now been changed to Friday 23rd October** – so school will now close to pupils for October half term on **Thursday 22nd October and re-open on Monday 2nd November**. I have updated the school term dates on the website and will send it out to all families once again.

I appreciate your understanding on this change due to an important collaborative training day for the staff across all the Catholic schools who will be joining The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust.

Home Learning Provision:

We have had some very positive feedback on the changes we have made to the home learning support though the class pages on the website – thank you. I hope that you and your child are enjoying the activities that have been uploaded for you and that you are using the class dojo page to communicate and further support needed with your class teachers – I know they are keen to support wherever they can.

**HOME
LEARNING**



Improvements to the environment for our pupils:

In my last newsletter I spoke about some work that was to be carried out over Easter on improvements to the environment for our pupils. I am very pleased to share with you the pictures of that work – we think it has made a great impact and the pupils who have seen them thus far have loved them.



The school council completed some research with all the pupils about their favourite book characters, and staff shared quotes about why reading is so important.

We have had some reading wall art completed in different spaces in school.

Can you work out where they are?

Which book characters do you recognise and what books are they from?

Who was the author that wrote the story about the character?

What quotes about reading can you find?

Why do you think reading is important – are you reading lots at home?





We have also had a world map designed which includes animals that are from the different regions of the world and the world flags at the bottom:



Can you find Great Britain?

Can you find some of the animals and where they are from? I must admit I rather like the polar bear!

Do you know any of the world flags? What do you know about the country? Have you found the flag of Great Britain?

In order to support our pupils with their understanding of history we have designed a history timeline that includes key dates and events for the topics we teach at St Patrick's and key dates and events linked to our local area and our faith.

We have included the birth of Jesus, the election of Pope Francis, the building of Oakwell Hall and many more.

We look forward to pupils being able to come and find dates that link to the topics they are covering –



What dates link with the current topics your children are learning about?

Can you work out which wall it is displayed on?



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
BIRSTALL

Supporting the character education on the virtues at school we have had a display board designed for the school hall – this shows the three main virtues that reflect the life of our school and that of our patron St Patrick:

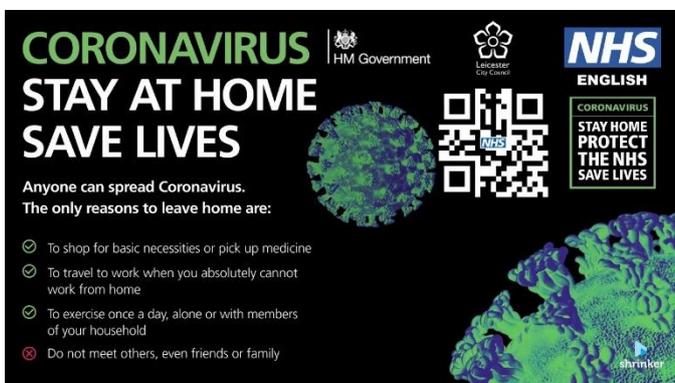


I am sure the pupils will be able to tell you how St Patrick showed faith, love and courage in his life as we did a lot of work on this at the beginning of March leading up to St Patrick's saint's day – [see if your child can remember anything they found out.](#)

I am sure you will agree that the work now completed is a great addition to the environment for the pupils and we very much look forward to using it with them to support great learning when we return.

School Playground Improvements

The work planned for the school playground will now begin on Monday 5th May following difficulties with sourcing the needed materials due to the lockdown. I look forward to giving you updates on how this develops in the coming weeks.



We continue to hope everyone is well at this very difficult time and having the support they need – if I, or any of the staff, can be of support in anyway please do not hesitate to contact me by email

head.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk or through the school office 01924 423220

With kind regards Mrs C Moulding (Headteacher)