

ENGLISH MARTYRS NEWSLETTER

www.englishmartyrswakefield.org.uk

26th June 2020

FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE

Dear Parents,

As the end of the Summer term fast approaches, we find ourselves still waiting on guidance as to what will happen next with our children's education. It has been a worrying time, and I can only hope that in between keeping yourselves afloat, both emotionally and financially, you have managed to support your children with their home learning.

I would like to assure you that staff are currently working on a new September curriculum, and we will be putting in place a curriculum that will look to address the missed learning that has resulted from the school closure. With that said, we are also very mindful of the emotional impact that the Covid-19 pandemic may have had upon the mental wellbeing of our children, and there will be a significant focus on nurture recovery as well as learning.

Our aim is to get back to normal as quickly and as safely as possible. If we find ourselves in the same situation however, we will look to develop our computing skills even further, and devise live, online lessons for our home learners. In an attempt to prepare ourselves for this shift in delivery, we will be exploring different platforms next week and planning some trial lessons for each year group. Please keep in regular touch with your child's teacher to see when the trial lesson will be broadcast, which is likely to be the week commencing 6th July.

Until next week, take care,
Mrs Connell

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact ~
Designated Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Tina Connell
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Bridget Kerrigan

Mindfulness Moment:

"Namaste"



The Sanskrit greeting 'namaste' means 'the light in me greets the light in you'. On waking tomorrow, decide that you will look for the secret goodness in three people you deal with. Open your heart as you speak to them and notice how this intention affects your thoughts, and the interaction you have with them.

ENGLISH MARTYRS SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS



SPANISH CLUB: I am in the process of trying to set up an early morning Spanish Club.

We are very lucky to have an external teacher visit us each week (Mr Ratcliffe) who currently teaches our Key Stage 2 children French lessons. Next year, he will be with us for a full morning session, and it seems like a great idea to have him in early so that he can offer a something a little different!

To make it even more exciting, we would be able to provide a typical Spanish breakfast. Research tells me that this might be bollos (sweet rolls) with jam or 'Maria' crackers dunked in warm milk.

Could you please let me know if you would be interested in this club as soon as you can, and I will add your name to a waiting list. If we get enough interest, I will go ahead with the booking.

Muchas gracias!

Calling all parents...

A reminder - we are looking for two supportive parent governors who are willing to give their time to help the school move forward. You will need to have a child currently in school, and be able to commit to a couple of meetings per term, as well as a school visit. This is an exciting and very rewarding position – if you think you are the right person for the job, look out for the letter coming soon!

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Relationship and Sex Education

As you know, the provision of RSE becomes statutory from September. We will be using a resource called 'Life to the Full', a programme which not only fulfils the requirements set out by the DfE, but is endorsed by Bishop Marcus as supporting the virtues of the Catholic faith.

"I HAVE COME
THAT YOU MAY
HAVE LIFE,
LIFE TO THE FULL"
JOHN 10:10

The programme teaches Relationships Education and Health Education within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality, rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church. Taught with a spiral approach to learning, in which children revisit the same topics at an age-appropriate stage through their school life, the programme includes teaching about: personal health / physical and emotional wellbeing / strong emotions / private parts of the body / personal relationships / family structures / trusted adults / growing bodies / puberty / periods / life cycles / the dangers of social media / where babies come from / an understanding of the Common Good / living in the wider world.

The entire teaching is underpinned with a religious understanding that our deepest identify is as a child of God – created, chosen and loved by God. It also offers an Online Parent Portal for links to home. Please visit the link below to see the website.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/relationship-education/>

Residential Trip to Alton Castle

A few months ago, a group of Headteachers from the BKCAT Trust visited a Catholic Youth Retreat called Alton Castle. We were so impressed by what it had to offer that we decided, as a Trust, to see if we could arrange a group booking for our Year 6 children each year. A group booking guarantees sole occupancy of the whole retreat, and last week we learned that we have been able to secure a booking for next March! So, for next year's Year 6 children, we will be offering them a chance to spend a 3 day residential at Alton Castle, in the company of Year 6 children from St. Joseph's, Moorthorpe, and Sacred Heart, Hemsworth. A letter will come out soon with more details.

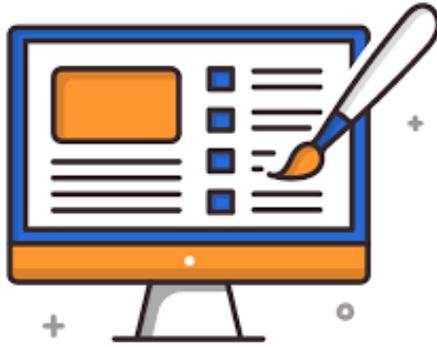
In light of the above decision, it is clear that we need to review our whole school provision of residential trips, to see what we can offer our children in other year groups. As soon as we have firmed up a progressive plan, we will share it with you.



Here is an extract taken from the Alton Castle website:

'Our residential retreats are unique in the way the experience of creation, and times of community prayer, are woven through challenging activities. Retreatants are pushed to trust in each other, to work together, and to conquer challenges as the encounter Christ in each other and in the activities they take part in.'

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Have you seen our website?

It's had a make-over!

Road Safety

Children in Year 6 this week have been discussing road safety with a particular emphasis on travel to high school. Please take a look at the link below for more information and activities. The section on distractions will be particularly relevant for the new journeys they will be making!



<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/road-safety-education-training-and-publicity>

'Make sure you have a plan B if something goes wrong on your journey -'
Alex

Here are some quotes from Year 6 children in school about what they have learnt; these will be useful for our home learners too!

'Always cross at safe places like pedestrian crossings or zebra crossings.' -
Peggy.

'Remember to wear bright clothes when it's dark so that cars can see you, especially if you are on a bike -'
Bartosz

'Always stick to your normal route.'-Kevin.

'Don't go on your phone whilst crossing the road because you could get distracted and get run over.'
- Joseph

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English Martyrs Star of the Week!

Nursery ~ **ALISE O**

My star of the week for this week is Alise. She is making amazing progress with her phonics and has shown that she understands how to make a repeating pattern!!

Reception ~ **OMAR**

My star of the week this week is Omar, because he has had a fantastic attitude to learning and a really positive attitude. Mrs Sanderson and Mrs Ryan are so impressed!

Year 1 ~ **CATHERINE**

Catherine has become a superstar learner since returning to school! She has flown with her phonics and is impressing staff daily with her wonderful reading. She has a great attitude to learning and will often go above and beyond what is expected of her. A huge well done Catherine!

Year 2 ~ **AMELIA**

Amelia is producing fantastic work in all areas of learning. She has come back to school and adapted really well to her new learning style. Amelia has completed some fantastic reading comprehension and maths work and it is clear to see she has been trying hard to improve her skills both at home and in school. Keep up the hard work Amelia!

Year 3 ~ **RUBY E**

My star of the week is Ruby. She had an amazing attitude towards our Sport's Day activities in school and got a fantastic score. I'm really proud of how well she has settled back into school.

Year 4 ~ **SHAKIRA**

Shakira has shown real maturity this week. She is getting on with whatever is asked of her and working to a high standard. She has started to recognise her feelings and emotions and deal with them accordingly. Absolutely fantastic Shakira, everyone is very proud of you. Keep it up!

Year 5 ~ **KIAN**

My star of the week is Kian for accepting help from those at home and persevering with his learning. His effort has been increasing and this will really benefit him – keep up the good work Kian!

Year 6 ~ **NIKOLA P**

My Year 6 star of the week is Nicola. She has been working super hard from home and always keeps a smile on her face. I have really enjoyed reading her updates via Dojo Portfolio. Keep it up Nikola, well done!

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Here are some links to keep you up to date with the latest guidance...

Updated guidance on keeping children safe online

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online>

Online education resources for home learning update

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

COVID Summer Food Fund

Due to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the DfE recognise families will face increased pressure on household budgets over the coming months. They have launched a Covid Summer Food Fund to enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period.

All vouchers for the summer holidays will be ordered at least one week before the school's summer term ends.

This funding is in addition to the free school meals national voucher scheme.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-summer-food-fund>

Advice for parents on Tik Tok

<https://parentinfo.org/article/tiktok-what-parents-need-to-know>

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