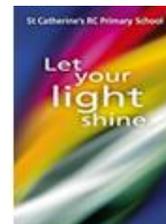


St Catherine's RC Primary School

1 July 2020 - Newsletter 9/19-20

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Dear parents, carers, friends and governors,

Welcome to our latest school newsletter. We hope this finds you and your family safe and well. As we move into the final few weeks of the strangest school year ever, we take a moment to thank our fantastic staff for going above and beyond during the school shutdown. We continue to hold all of you, our school families in prayer, especially those whose lives have been touched by grief and sadness.

Remember to check the school's Facebook page for updates about school.

School Shutdown-the impact

On Monday of this week we were able to welcome back some of our Year 1 children to school. It has been lovely to see their happiness at re-engaging with their friends and with being back at school. Their return is, of course, tinged with sadness that we have been unable to welcome all our pupils across school back before summer. I'm sure I speak for all when I say we just want things to return to something like normality in September.

I have heard many conversations about the time away from school being lost education; that children will have fallen behind; that children will be damaged unless there is some magical summer catch-up programme. A rough calculation of school days lost due to COVID-19 over a child's time at school shows that this time away from school equates to approximately 2.5% of a child's education at school. The "at school" part is important here. Because we know that children have continued to learn during this time. Children have maybe not taken part in as many formal lessons as they would at school but we know that much learning has continued to take place. And much of that has been new and different types of learning too.

So, we wanted to pause for a moment of reflection to say thank you to YOU.

This generation of children may be our most caring, our most appreciative of family and friendships, our most creative, our most thoughtful. We may have children who are better able to plan and carry out projects because they have been able to do them over time at home. We may have children who are now better able to express their emotions and show love because they have had precious time to learn how to do this with you. This generation of children may have enjoyed exercising with family in a way that has not been the case for generations. So please be proud of what you have done over the last few months. Think not of how your child has fallen behind-think more of what they can do now and will be more capable of doing when we gather together again. And THANK YOU!



Lockdown Lollapalooza

This wonderful evening of entertainment is coming direct to your home from Facebook LIVE at 6pm on July 10th-please send any "Talent" videos in by 3 July-details are on the school website of how to get them to us.

Bernie Tabone

We bring you news that at the end of this term, after 28 glorious years of dedicated service to St Catherine's, Mrs Tabone will be officially retiring. Mrs Tabone has been a fantastic servant to this school community, a great colleague and a source of inspiration for generations of pupils and staff. We thank Mrs Tabone for giving us the best years of her teaching career, for the way she has gone about her work, always with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face and will hold her in our prayers for the new and exciting adventures that lie ahead for her.

We wouldn't want Mrs Tabone to leave without seeing her pupils again or gathering as a school to say "Thank You", so she'll be back in September for the first week of term when we can say farewell properly.

Thank You Mrs Tabone for letting your light shine!

'Where the Hell is God?'

In these trying times, many people are led to ask the big questions of life. Where is God in the midst of Covid-19? Seeking God, questioning God are very natural responses to times of trial and grief and they are not new questions to the Catholic Church. Fr Sean Hall shares some thoughts here in a short video on the Diocesan website; he links to a podcast by an Irish Jesuit priest, Fr Richard Leonard and shares his journey in asking '*Where the Hell is God*' in the face of tragedy and he provides some solid advice on how to support others facing distress.

<http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/index.php>

Worth a watch if you have 13 minutes free.

Virtual Home/School Sports Day

Please keep an eye out for this year's Sports Day with a Difference. We are planning this for Wednesday 15 July-details to follow.

Staffing for September

Next week we would normally host our "meet-the-teacher" morning. New teachers will be getting in touch over the next week or so. So who will your child be working with? We'll share the full plan in the next newsletter but for now:

Year 6: Miss Cunningham

Year 5: Mr Seville

Year 4: Mrs Dent

Year 3: Mr Zobel (new to St Catherine's)

Year 2: Miss Haddow

Year 1: Miss Barnes

Reception; Miss Downie:

Nursery: Mrs Murray

Faith in Action awards

Well done to Year 6 for achieving the Faith In Action award! The work of these pupils has been a regular feature in newsletters throughout the year so this award won't come as a surprise to readers. The children can rightly wear their pin badges with pride having made a difference to the world through bringing their faith.

Forest school

Many thanks to Andy and Che Trattles for their great work in creating our fire pit and pond in the Forest school. We are running a competition, details on Facebook this week, to find a name for the Forest School area which will go above the entrance archway.

Look out for annual reports w/b 13 July.

Best wishes

M Ewing

Headteacher