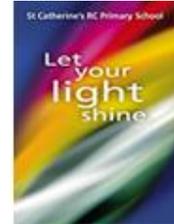


St Catherine's RC Primary School

11 June 2020 - Newsletter 8/19-20

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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. Since school shutdown took effect on Monday 23 March we are aware that we have families within our school community whose lives have been tragically touched by COVID-19. We continue to hold all our families in prayer, especially those of you who have yet been able to grieve properly for those you have loved. Take care and stay safe.

School Shutdown Update

You will be aware that on Tuesday the government announced that plans to open for all pupils before the summer term had been abandoned. The restrictions created by social distancing regulations and on class sizes mean that we will not have the space nor the staff to be able to accommodate all pupils at the same time. I've read some reports suggesting that this is because of unions making it difficult for pupils and staff to return. This could not be further from the truth. We have created thorough Risk Assessments, working with staff, governors and the unions and following Dept for Education and Public Health England advice to help reduce risk and to ensure that we can welcome back pupils in a safe way. Our conversations and discussions have been constructive and productive and our staff have stepped up to work in new, creative and collaborative ways, as they have since the onset of this crisis.

We are now looking ahead to the rest of this term and are exploring ways in which we can help to maintain the engagement of all pupils with the learning process.

It may help to share some of the organisation around the school day for Y6 at this point:

On Monday 15 June we welcome back pupils from Y6. These pupils will be taught in "bubbles" of 7 or 8 pupils, each bubble having their own teaching space with 2 members of staff. Children spend the day with their bubble, either in their space or outdoors, with no crossing of children or staff between bubbles. Each space will have the learning resources required for the day's activities and children need only bring their packed lunch (no school meals service currently) and a water bottle with a sports cap.

Each bubble has their own entrance/exit point and a staggered start and finish time means that each child arrives with their adult at a different time to the children of the Key Workers group.

School closes at 12 noon Friday for Y6 children.

Our current plan, provided that it is safe to do so and that we have sufficient staff and space, is that our next group for whom school will re-open is Year 1. We will contact parents of Year 1 children with further information when we are in a position to confirm arrangements.



Let Your Light Shine

We can never have too many things that put smiles on faces during these times, so thank you to everyone who contributed to the “**You’ve Got a Friend in Me**” video. It’s on the school website and on the school Facebook page too. More than 1k people have watched it-it’s lovely to see the video reach out to so many!



St Catherine's Got Talent

BIG NEWS!

Normally at this time of year we'd be thinking about the annual St Catherine's Got Talent show and Camp-Out-always a highlight of the school year for many.

This year is going to be very different. The talent is still there; you could still camp-out (if you have a garden or you could camp in a different room), and we still have a fantastic school community that enjoys appreciating each other's talents. So, we won't be able to perform in person in front of a live audience. But there are still ways in which we can put on a show. So, over the next few weeks we'll be inviting children (and adults) to put a video together of them singing or joke-telling, dancing or juggling, skipping or magic tricks-whatever the talent may be. And we'll then be pulling this all together in a live event that you'll be able to access from your phone, PC or tablet.

We look forward to an event where once again our children can let their light shine- let's get rehearsing!

Reception/Nursery transition

Transition for Nursery and Reception children, like many things, will be very different this year. We are gathering together resources to help you and your child prepare for their new start and will be sharing these with you later this month. If you are new to our school, we'll be contacting you to have a conversation about your child. None of us know yet what September will bring but whatever shape it takes we will work in partnership to make the best of it.

Year 6 Transition

Transition days at our local high schools will not be taking place as normal this year. We have been and will be speaking with all the destination schools for our Y6 pupils and sharing information to help the high schools prepare to welcome our fantastic school leavers.

Academy Consultation

Can I remind all parents that the deadline for submitting comments or questions regarding the school joining the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust is this Friday 12 June. Further information, including a Frequently Asked Questions document, is available at:

http://edurcdhn.org.uk/school/support_docs/support_schpolicies.php

Please contact me on:

Michael.ewing@stcatherines.newcastle.sch.uk to comment or ask a question.

Take care, stay safe and God bless you

Best wishes

M Ewing

Headteacher