

# St Catherine's RC Primary School

11-24 Nov 2020 Newsletter 4/20-21

[www.stcatherines.newcastle.sch.uk](http://www.stcatherines.newcastle.sch.uk)



Message of the Week: I can say one good thing about myself

Dear parents, carers, friends and governors,

Today our school fell silent at 11am as we paid our respects to all who fell in the 2 World Wars and to those who have given their lives in the service of their country. We used a short video prepared by the Diocesan Youth Mission Team which we've posted on the school's Facebook page today.

We've had lots of great Parent Consultation conversations this week. Thank you for all the positive messages and the good work from everybody so far this term. .

## School Measures and Covid

As we have entered national lockdown, local cases have gone up and we have had to close our first bubble at school we have revisited our Risk Assessment this week.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to respond to the request to wear masks on the school site when dropping off and collecting children. Can I ask that all parents/carers arrive promptly at school at their child's start and finish times leaving the school site as soon as children have been dropped off and collected and avoid waiting in the yard. We must also keep to a safe 2m distance from others even when wearing masks.

You will note school staff wearing masks more at these and other key times.

We have paused volunteers coming into school to work in classrooms for the time being.

We won't be able to have our usual Christmas celebrations, nativity concerts, carols and so on this year under current restrictions. However, we are still looking at how we can make Christmas 2020 a memorable one. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

## Applications for Reception Sept 2021

It is now possible for parents to apply for spaces in Reception Class for September 2021 at [www.newcastle.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk). The deadline for applications is 15 January 2021. Whilst we are currently restricting visits to the school we are happy to take any phone-calls or emails where we can direct prospective parents to further information and a guided video tour on the school website (coming soon).

## Self-isolation Support

If your child has to self-isolate because of the closure or part-closure of their bubble we may be able to offer support. We have a small number of ipad devices (6) which we can loan out to enable children to access the home-learning which will be set for your child on Seesaw or Tapestry. Please do contact me through the school office if we can lend you a device.



### **Northern Children's Book Festival**

In these days when visitors to school are restricted we have been very fortunate this week to access 2 authors who joined us over the internet from their homes in Brighton and Somerset. Year 4 were delighted to meet author Holly Rivers yesterday as part of the Northern Childrens Book Festival. She spoke to children about her first book **Demelza and the Spectre Detectors**.

Year 2 will enjoy a visit from children's author Will Hamilton Davies on Friday who will lead a workshop based on his book **The Shrew with the Flu**. For any Year 2 families isolating we'll send you a Zoom link so that you can join the rest of the class live for the session

### **Relationships and Health Education**

Please look out for information relating to our revised RHE policy and programme which we will be consulting upon over the next few weeks. It is a statutory requirement that all primary schools now teach this key subject from January 2021.

Whilst we have always taught this subject within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church, which will continue, the launch of the new programme from Ten Ten gives us the opportunity to share with you what we will cover and to seek the views of parents about the programme. Look out for some communication about that soon, including how you can share your views.

### **First Holy Communions**

With churches being closed this month we will need to re-arrange the dates for children whose First Holy Communion celebration should be taking place this month. We are hoping and praying that churches and other places of worship will re-open in December.

### **School Gatherings**

We haven't been able to gather as a whole school since March because of restrictions around the mixing of bubbles.

But we do gather through Zoom twice each week, once on a Monday when we share our message of the week in Collective Worship and on a Friday afternoon for our Well Done Assembly. Although we can't be in the one place it is so lovely to hear the cheering of children to let us know they are "present" and the children seeing each other collecting their certificates.

Last half-term's House Group Winners are St Bede and their reward is that this Friday, 13 November all house members of St Bede can enjoy a non-uniform day, all day, free of charge!

### **Highlight of the Week so far?**

We've been shopping this week for food for some of our isolating families. Miss Martin was stopped by an elderly gentleman at Aldi Walker who asked her where all the food she had in her trolley was going. On hearing the explanation he pulled out his wallet and gave her £10 to go and buy some "sweets for the bairns".

Isn't it good to remember that there are kind-hearted people like this around?

Have a great week!

Best wishes



M Ewing

Headteacher