



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Friday 25th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and got through your first week of Term 5 home schooling. I am glad to hear you enjoyed the photo montage of the teachers and some of you have already received calls from the class teachers, we are trying our best to make sure we continue to be a family during these difficult times.

The class teachers have been tasked with calling every family in their class, if you see a number blocked on your phone it could be because teachers are calling from their homes. Mrs Guest will also be calling the children that she mentors, she is also working from home so please pick up if you see a blocked number.

We have decided not to use any live learning platforms due to safeguarding and parity of learning concerns. I know some of you have been accessing Mme Fuller's French classes, as from next week she will not be using a live learning platform for KS2 but will use our google classroom to post French activities. She will continue with her club and you can contact her for details:-

KS1 French lessons will start on Thursday 23rd April at 12.30pm. Please email admin@clubs4kids.com for the zoom link. There is a cost of £5.50 per session.

If you are having difficulties logging on to Google classroom or have forgotten your password, you can e mail Mr Bath and he will help you out.
greg.bath@stjoes.org.uk



"Together we love, together we hope, together we learn."



RSE (Relationships and Sex education)

In September 2020 this will become a compulsory part of the curriculum. I am sure you have read quite a bit in the press about the subject. Rest assured there is nothing new in this curriculum that we have not been covering already. I would like to draw your attention to the school website under - **Information/RSE**. Here you will find the draft Policy document for RSE plus some new information about the teaching tools we will be adopting to cover the new curriculum. The policy is based on the model Catholic Education Services policy and the new materials are provided by Ten Ten:-

<https://rseauthentic.uk/ten-ten-resources/>

When we come back together there will be an opportunity to look at these materials in more detail. In the meantime, if you have any comments about the policy or the materials please e mail the school office.

Church news

We continue to offer a daily assembly/prayer time for primary age children at 9.40 on weekdays and Childrens Liturgy at 10.30 on Sundays.

Do contact me for the zoom link if you'd like to join us.

frtom@josephfrancis.org.uk

Mass continues to be livestreamed daily at midday at josephfrancis.org/livestream.

From today we are trialling a different livestreaming provider, Boxcast. We now have the best possible setup at the Church end, but the quality depends crucially on the CDN (Content Delivery Network) that delivers the livestream to you. Others have had very positive experiences with Boxcast, so we're trying this over the next week, and would be very interested to hear how it affects the quality of the livestream for you. Concretely, if you follow the Mass on the website it won't affect anything for you, but if you follow on Vimeo, that won't be possible to do live this week – we'll put the video up on Vimeo for those wanting to catch up later. Do get in touch if you have any questions or issues.

As we continue to celebrate the Rededication of England as Mary's Dowry, we are offering an inspiring 5 session exploration of Mary, past and present called Let it Be. Filmed around the world with well-known experts and down-to-earth testimonies about how the example and prayer of Mary can help us grow in our everyday faith. We will be running this course on Zoom and can offer technical support and help to get you started on Zoom should you need this. Please register at josephfrancis.org/courses by midnight on Sunday 26 April if you would like to participate.

In normal circumstances many people come into our Church before Mass for a time of prayer and to light a candle. As this isn't currently possible, at 11.30 on Sundays I will be in the Church and light candles for any of your intentions. This is livestreamed on the website and across our social media channels. Please share anything that you'd like me to pray for and do join me if you'd like to for this time of prayer.

Our men's group is now meeting virtually on Zoom. As we are not providing breakfast, we're meeting half an hour later, at 6.30am, finishing at 7.30am. We watch some video input, then have some sharing and prayer. Anyone who might like to join us would be most welcome at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77517194475>.

Our regular rosary group continues to meet at 2pm on Tuesdays. We are continuing to work out the best times to offer additional opportunities to pray the rosary and will meet again at 6pm on Monday to



pray together and make a decision on this. Both opportunities continue to be at <https://zoom.us/j/376494958>.

Our Youth Alpha programme for teenagers continues to be really well received. This takes place on Tuesdays from 8-9.15pm. We have also just launched a new group for those in years 6 to 8, which meets on Wednesday evenings from 6.15 to 7.30pm. If you are interested in these, do let me know.

Father Tom

Safeguarding

Amidst the wealth of amazing facts and experiences on the internet, there will still be some people using the situation for illegal and unsavoury activities. There is a host of Internet Safety material available and two particularly useful sites are:

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP. Thinkuknow aims to empower children and young people aged 4-18 to identify the risks they may face online and know where they can go for support.

They have created a package for children and their families over the coming weeks and months.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

The NSPCC have a whole host of really useful videos, very brief, often only a couple of minutes, regarding various areas of child safeguarding issues.

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

Keeping Fit

A gentler approach to fitness than Mr Wickes. Please find below a link to the NHS Active 10 site.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/active10/home>

Website

Please keep visiting our web site for news updates from the DFE, continue to look on the parent/Covid news updates for more online learning opportunities and prayer ideas along with resources for family worship.

If you have any queries over the next week, please e mail the office rather than phone as your message may not be picked up. Please let us know if you are struggling with anything, we are here to help and will do our best to sort a problem.

As many of you know my mum passed away before Christmas, I picked up a book that she had by her bedside called prayer for the day Volume 1 '365 Inspiring daily reflections'. It has been a great source of inspiration and comfort during these times. It draws from people of all faiths and backgrounds and a little story is followed by a quote- a fitting one perhaps-



*'Holy God, all our lives belong to you, and you promise that suffering and death never have the last word.
When we are sad or troubled, help us to know that your love is stronger than anything we face' Amen.*

God Bless

Mrs Jackson