



St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

Mobberley Road, Goldenhill, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 5RN

Tel: (01782) 235393 Fax: (01782) 235394

www.stjosephscatholicacademy.co.uk

email: stjoseph@sjnewman.co.uk

Acting Executive Principal- Mrs D Farmer

Acting Head of School – Mrs R Wilson

Monday 20th April 2020

Dear children, parents and families of St Joseph's,

Today should be the start of the Summer term- a busy term that is often filled with great excitement, activity, celebration and hope for the future. During the Summer term, we often have so much to prepare for and look forward to as a school- Sports Day, First Holy Communion, the Summer concert- the list of Summer term activities is often endless. I feel particularly sad today for our wonderful Year 6 children would ordinarily be returning to school in a mild state of pre-SATs panic, mixed with great excitement about starting their last term together as a class who have shared so many wonderful memories for up to 8 years of their lives.

However, if this pandemic has taught us one thing, it is that sometimes, we just have to sit tight and wait for the storm to pass. Last week, the Government announced a further three weeks of lock-down, and so for now, we must all stay safe and positive at home- it is the best and safest place for us all. We will, of course, keep you updated as soon as we know more about any plans for school to re-open.

The fantastic staff of St Joseph's miss our school children and families so much and I know they are keeping you all in their prayers. I hope many of you were able to watch the video message that we put together for you- I hope the children found some comfort in seeing a familiar face on screen and again, I would like to personally thank the staff, as every one of them willingly participated in the making of the video. We have had a fantastic response from parents, children and families too, so thank you sincerely for your support- it means a great deal to us all at this time. If you have not yet seen the video, please go to our Facebook page, St Joseph's, Goldenhill, like our page and feel free to leave a comment- we would love to hear from you.

Last week, I asked for photographs of your children at home to share on Facebook with the school community. If your child is celebrating a birthday during lock-down, or you have some good news or super work to share, please send an email to stjoseph@sjnewman.co.uk and we will happily share your photographs if you have given consent. We would particularly like to see any rainbow pictures, posters or projects that children may have done in support of our fantastic NHS.

It feels like such a long time since we have spoken to some of you, so at some point during this week, your children will receive a telephone call from their class teachers. Please tell your child not to be nervous- it may be strange for them to talk on the phone to their teachers, but we will not be testing them or asking what work they have already done! We just want to find out a bit about what they have been up to over the last few weeks, and the teachers are all so excited just to hear their voices. When the teachers call you, 'Private Number' will be displayed on your screen, so please do answer!



The teaching staff have continued to work very hard throughout their Easter holidays to maintain and add to the online, interactive class pages that they have created on the Home Learning page of our website. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Clarkson for setting up the class pages, Mrs Grange for organising the Home Learning page, and to all of the teachers who have invested a lot of their time uploading so many activities for your children. There is such a wealth of fantastic learning opportunities to keep your little ones busy and active, so please do use all of the resources available to them on the class pages- there are games, videos, recipes, practical activities, physical exercise- all areas of your child's curriculum are catered for. I understand that many of you may be worried about the children falling behind in their learning, but if you can ensure that they at least keep up with the English and Maths activities that staff are preparing for them, that will really help once we do all return to school.

As I have said before, try to see this time at home with your children as a blessing and an opportunity to teach them some skills that will stay with them for life: getting dressed independently, helping to cook dinner, tidying their bedroom, planting in the garden, painting, etc. We will most likely never get this slower pace of life back again, so treasure the precious time you have with them and try to stay happy with one another.

If you feel that you need any support during the school closure, please do telephone or email us at the school- the staff are continuing to work and there will always be somebody available to help if you need us. I will continue to keep each and every one of you in my prayers in the hope that you all remain safe and well. God bless you all.

With very best wishes,

Mrs R Wilson,

Acting Head of School.