



St Joseph's Catholic Academy
Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Acting Executive Principal- Mrs D Farmer
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Monday 11th May 2020

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

It was lovely to be able to speak to many of our families this week and to find out from the teachers about the wonderful ways in which you are spending your time as lock-down continues. From the families that I have spoken to, I must say that I have been delighted to hear of the creative approaches that you are taking in your learning and that everybody is finding ways to see the positives in what are very challenging circumstances. Please remember that we are all finding aspects of this time very difficult, and we certainly don't expect children to be 'taught' in the same way that they would be if they were in school all week. As long as all of the children are happy and healthy and are learning something, please be assured that every child in the country is in the same situation, and it is our job as teachers to enable your children to catch-up when they do return to school.

I am sure many of you, like me, were waiting in great anticipation for Boris Johnson's announcement last night. Quite what his revised message means for school still remains rather unclear at this stage- he appears to be saying that for the time being, we must continue as we are, to maintain social distancing and prevent a second peak, and that 1st June will be the earliest that any children will return to school. Even then, it appears that this will be a phased return, so for now, school will continue to remain closed for all except children of key workers and vulnerable children. As soon as we are given further advice and guidance, we will of course inform you.

Thank you to all of you who have sent in photographs of your children this week, especially your VE Day celebrations. It is a lovely way to still feel part of a school community even though we are not together. Please keep the photos of children's work coming in to our school email address- stjoseph@snewman.co.uk. We will pass on photographs to your child's class teacher and share on our Facebook page if you wish us to do so.

A huge thank you to everybody who entered the 'Guess the name of the giraffe' competition. I was concerned that our efforts to fundraise remotely might be too much of a challenge, but I am delighted to inform you that we did manage to exceed our target of £200 and have raised a massive £267 in 6 days, which equates to £321.50 including Gift Aid! We really do appreciate your continued support and I have been asked to pass on the gratitude of Sarah O'Reilly, fundraising officer for University Hospital Royal Stoke, who is incredibly grateful of our support. I would like to especially thank Mrs Reynolds for knitting and donating the beautiful rainbow giraffe, whom she named Goodwill! Congratulations to our competition winner, Mrs Lahey- Goodwill will be on its way to you as soon as possible!



Please continue to support and follow us through our Facebook page. As well as the lovely work and photographs that we post of our children, there are links to weekly worship, Safe+Sound courses and other educational resources that may be of interest to you. There are even frequent guest appearances from our staff and Fr Julian. Each Monday, we launch the new School Games competition, and a special congratulations must go to Harper-Lilly in Reception who was the overall winner last week! Very well done Harper- Lilly- we are really proud of you! Let's try to see if we can keep St Joseph's on the leader board!

During this month of May, devoted to our blessed Mother Mary, we continue to ask her to intercede for us in our prayers. Prayer is an integral part of your child's school life, and I would like to think that your children are being encouraged to continue their faith and pray at home. Please encourage your children to pray a Hail Mary, or, for the older children, a decade of the rosary during this month. Please also remember to make use of the following resources to support your child's prayer life at home:

Weekly worship and song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq9R2QMkqyo>- the link will be different for this each week, but new links will be posted on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Many of our children will enjoy joining in with Onelife's interactive songs, hymns and prayers

Daily Prayers for Home: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/daily-prayers-for-home/> Suitable for all ages from Early Years upwards, this resource includes some physical and spiritual opportunities to pray

How to pray the Our Father-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEAvu7HuW7w&feature=youtu.be>

Produced by the Kenelm Youth Trust, youth workers within our own Diocese, this is the first in a series of 'How to pray' videos, which will be released every Wednesday, with a weekly focus on a particular prayer or form of prayer. Throughout May, they will be releasing videos on the Hail Mary and the Rosary amongst others. Each, released at midday on Wednesday, will be available on their social media channels and on YouTube: Instagram: @Soli_kyt/ Facebook: solikyt/

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/JEAvu7HuW7w>

Finally, I came across another little poem this week that I have included on the next page. It reminded me that our children, who feel somehow like the forgotten generation in this pandemic, are also little heroes who have shown remarkable patience, resilience and strength of character during what must be an incredibly confusing and frustrating time. I would like to offer this poem especially for our Year 6 children this week, who should have been sitting the first of their SATS tests this morning. I know that they will really appreciate the sentiment in this poem, and I hope they will study this in place of their Reading test paper this week! This crisis has taught us many things- one of which is that there are for more important things to achieve in life than a SATs grade, so the message in this poem is for you, Year 6- each and every one of you are rainbow children and I hope you are all dreaming of ways to build a better world- the future of our planet is in your hands.

I will continue to keep all of you all in my prayers over the coming week. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything at all that you need any support with- our school office will remain open and so you should always be able to get in touch if you need us.

God bless you all.

Mrs R Wilson,

Acting Head of School.

The Rainbow Children

**The history books will talk of now,
That time the world stood still.
When every family stayed at home,
Waved out from windowsills-
At those they loved but could not hold,
Because they loved them so.
Yet, whilst they did they noticed all the flowers start to grow.**

**The sun came out, they can recall,
And windows, rainbows filled.
They kicked a football in their yards,
Until the night drew in.
They walked each day but not too close,
That time the world stood still.
When people walked straight down the roads,
That once the cars did fill.**

**They saw that people became ill,
They knew the world was scared.
But whilst the world stood still they saw,
How much the whole world cared.
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,
They cheered for the brave.
For people who would risk their lives,
So others could be saved.**

**The schools closed down, they missed their friends,
They missed their teachers so.
Their Mam's and Dad's helped with their work,
They helped their minds to grow.
The parents used to worry that,
As schools were put on hold,
Their children wouldn't have the tools,
They'd need as they grew old.**

**But history books will talk of them,
Now adults, fully grown.
Those little boys and girls back then,
The ones who stayed at home.
They'll tell you that they fixed this world,
Of all they would fulfill.
The RAINBOW children building dreams,
They'd dreamed whilst time stood still**

