



Newsletter 25
20th March 2020



Dear Parents,

This is really a difficult newsletter to write. Today the school is closing due to the public health emergency and we are unable to support all the children in the way we always want to do. We will be providing a childcare service to those key worker families who do not have another adult to care for their children while they provide a public service to others. We are so grateful to them for continuing to do what they do and I am grateful to the staff at St Cuthbert Mayne who are willingly providing care for the children. Being mindful of social distancing is going to be a key priority for all.

For those not in next week, we have the class blogs that the teachers will update. Any comments made by children go to the teacher who can put comments on the blog or not. So if you or your child wish to contact the class teacher, the blog is a safe way to do so. We are looking at increasing the interaction on the blog, so please check in on it regularly. Any other messages should go to our office email address. Those children who are in next week, all parents have been contacted with details.

On a cheerier note, all children in today took part in the sponsored skip. Every child will come home with an Easter egg today as a thank you for the skipping. Thank you to our PA for providing the eggs and Mrs Welch for adding further eggs. Any money raised should go into the Lenten Box in aid of the Catholic Children's Society. We will collect the boxes on our return to school.

We fully envisage opening again before the end of the school year. So Year 6s, we will still need you to continue learning and getting ready for Secondary School. There may not be SATs but we still want you to continue your learning. You will be assessed by the teachers from the work you have done and this information will go forward to your next school. We don't want you to stop learning. Please keep your teachers updated with your learning.

We are very aware this will be a time of hardship for many families. All our Pupil Premium families will be receiving food vouchers, which will be posted next week. At the end of this newsletter is a list of charities compiled by the Diocese that may be of use and provide support. Please keep this in case of need.

Children will be coming home with their medicines today. For those parents who are not in school, we will keep these safe. Please email if you need to arrange to pick them up.



St Cuthbert Cross

The school received something very special this week – a glass Cross – made in preparation for our school’s 60th anniversary in September by Adriana Garcia.

The Cross in blue and white for our colours with a fleck of yellow representing St Rose’s.

It is a beautiful piece and I wanted to share it with you at this time.

On the back it says: “Our Faith Can Move Mountains” – Matthew 17:20.

It seem very appropriate right now.

Thank you, Mrs Adriana, we look forward to it being displayed in the school.

Children have continued to work hard in school while our thoughts have been with those self-isolating or dealing with illness. They have been able to keep up to date with learning via the class blogs, My Maths, Bug Club and Fitter Future. All the family can use Fitter Future – suitable for indoor fitness sessions appropriate for small places. Your children should have all their log-ins in their Home School Diary – these have all been checked this week.

Merit Certificates

Well done to the following children who have been selected by their class teacher:

3Anning	Zander Bothma	Excellent vocabulary in writing.
3Nightingale	Finn Eustace	For much improved focus in independent work and producing a higher quality and quantity of writing.
4Jemison	Maja Kelly	An excellent student, shining in Reading comprehension
4Attenborough	Alex Gavin	For great effort in his writing and an excellent first draft of science writing.
5Mandela	Harry Wheeler	Excellent learning attitude and showing tremendous resilience when problem solving in Maths.
5Einstein	Ross White	For applying himself in all areas of the curriculum.
6Johnson	Krzysztof Czarniawski	For fantastic effort with up levelling his English homework.
6Martin Luther King	Ethan Thomas	For a mature and engaging report on Charles Darwin and his research on evolution and natural selection.
	Finnley Stockdale	Fantastic progress in all areas.

All the staff send their love and prayers to all our families, we are all together as one.

You are all in our thoughts and I look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible,

Take care,

Mrs Smith
Head Teacher

Supporting Families in Our School Communities

Many families within our school communities will experience difficult and uncertain times due to the Covid-19 virus and periods of self-isolation. In all likelihood this may result in financial implications due to loss of income or increased pressures on low incomes. Below are a few links to provide information to assist parents and careers on how to access various levels of support.

Catholic Children's Society – Crisis Fund - <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/crisis-fund/>

The Crisis Fund provides immediate financial support for families facing a crisis in their lives. Parish Priests and Headteachers can apply to this fund on behalf of a family and we will respond within 24 hours. This support can make a huge difference to families in desperate situations when they have nowhere else to turn.

Caritas Westminster – Caritas Food Collective - <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/caritas-food-collective-918.php>

Caritas Westminster has launched a new initiative across the Diocese of Westminster to tackle the problem of food poverty and insecurity. The project, called [Caritas Food Collective](#), has three key aims: to expand direct food relief across the diocese, to support people to become more food secure through signposting and skills training, and to develop education and advocacy across the diocese so together we can tackle the issues underlying the problem of food poverty.

St Vincent De Paul (SVP) - Community Support Projects – <https://www.svp.org.uk/community-support-projects>

This includes our Community Shops, Furniture Stores, Advice and Support Centres, Supported Accommodation and our contract with the Home Office to manage and run two local Approved Premises. SVP members are also involved with holiday camps and the running of local soup runs and food banks

The Trussel Trust – Food Banks - <https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

The website provides useful information on locating your local Foodbank and how you can access emergency help.

Citizens Advice Bureau – Advice and support for parents on low incomes

- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/help-if-on-a-low-income/>

Early Help Hubs/Social Services – All local authorities have advice and support for families experiencing difficulties – Direct parents to your local authority website.

Gingerbread – Charity supporting single parent families - <https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/coronavirus/>

The Money Advice Service – Free impartial advice on money issues by the Government

- <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you>

- <https://www.csan.org.uk/>
Caritas Social Action Network – Provides a comprehensive list of agencies who offer a wide range of help, support and advice on social issues

Caritas Social Action Network shares in the mission of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. We animate and co-ordinate our network of social action charities and dioceses, working in collaboration with them to help poor, vulnerable and marginalised people find their voice and to enable them to improve their lives.

National Debt Line – A national helpline and advisory service giving free, impartial and confidential debt advice

- <https://www.nationaldebtline.org/EW/factsheets/Pages/coronavirus-advice-and-support/help-and-advice.aspx>

Local Authority – Grants, Benefits and Crisis Funds - <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Use the web link to find your local authority where you can access services and seek advice on potential grants, benefits and funds

Family Action – Charity supporting families – <https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/grants/>

Family Action works to tackle some of the most complex and difficult issues facing families today – including financial hardship, mental health problems, social isolation, learning disabilities, domestic abuse, or substance misuse and alcohol problems.

Family Fund – Charity supporting families with disabled or seriously ill children

- <https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people.

Turn2Us - Turn2us is a national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially. - <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

Turn2us helps people in financial need gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help – online, by phone and face to face through our partner organisations.