



Newsletter 31
15th May 2020



Dear Parents,

Thank you already for feedback to this morning's letter re school closure. Your thoughts help us build a picture of what is wanted and provides useful information as we work on the best way to move forward. Please keep the feedback coming. It feels good to be in touch too. In the coming week we will be finalising our plans and preparing the school and hoping that we will be able to carry them out. Our staff have been very resilient and hard working – on the class blogs, providing key worker care and supporting the vulnerable as well as adding to their own remote learning. For all our community, safety and well-being have to be the top priorities.

Preparation work has started on our Remembrance Garden – and we will be looking at ways St Cuthbert Mayne community members and relatives can be celebrate the lives of those that have died. I have been asked to let friends of the Keane Family know that Tony Keane's funeral has taken place today with a restricted number of family present. If you would like to donate to the family's memory giving page, the link is <http://www.memorygiving.com/anthonykeane> - in aid of MDS UK supporting patients with bone marrow failure. Our staff send their love, thoughts and prayers to Sandrine, Caitlin and Kirsty.

It is particularly difficult and frightening for children to come to terms with the death of a loved one either in their family or the family of someone they know. I would recommend the website www.winstonswish.org/ which is specifically to support children. It is one of the sites, along with our Rainbows programme, that has helped us develop our approach in school. Other useful websites:

Sue Ryder - [Click Here](#) (Information for parents on helping their child through grief and loss.)

Young Minds - [Click Here](#) (Information for parents supporting children with grief and loss)

Class Blogs

Well done to our children (and their families) for the fantastic response to learning on the blogs. It has been a joy to see evidence of such a range of work and activities – and many new skills

learnt! Mr Collingwood has been collating all the House Points gained from the teachers and on the latest count (today) the points tally is:

St Martin 238, St Catherine 230, St Dominic 223, St Rose 191.

Keep up the good work. Come on St Rose's, I am sure you can catch up.

Fitter Future

Freya Rajendram was by far the most active this week with 18 visits in a week! In the chasing pack were Piotr Czarniawski 6, Fraser Cullen 5, Esther Sanju 4, Sophia K-Ramirez 4. Well done.

We realise many children are also doing Joe Wickes and running, cycling etc. If you want to make us aware of any interesting sports news, we can celebrate that too.

Positive Minds

Our thanks to Watford FC Education Trust for the Weekly Positive Minds online sessions. These are proving very engaging and this week's topic of coping strategies very relevant. Judging by the suggestions on your class blog pages, you are coping amazingly well. With the children's permission I would like to put some on the pupil blog.

Individual and group music lessons

Hertfordshire Music Service has started its tuition online service. If you normally have instrumental lessons in school, you should have been contacted by the Music Service. It is unlikely that these will be possible in school this term, so this is a good way to keep playing with lots of time for practise!

Year 6 School Trip

It has become clear that, despite all attempts to leave it as late as possible, that the Year 6 school journey will not go ahead. We will be refunding all school journey money next week less the £30 original deposit which we cannot claim back. If a miracle occurs and a trip of some sort is possible before the end of the term, we will let you know but it looks unlikely right now.

Reports

We normally give out the annual reports at this time of year and this year is no different! However, we are planning to deliver the reports electronically, hopefully next Friday. Printed copies will be available on request when we are back at school.

I hope you have time to truly relax over the weekend and take a breather,

Best wishes

Fionnuala Smith
Head Teacher