



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Please forgive a break from tradition – a Monday newsletter rather than a Friday one! School life (like life in general!) is a bit upside-down at the moment, but I will try to keep in contact during the school closure. This newsletter is going to all families – the majority whose children are at home, as well as the few keyworker children in school – so forgive me if some areas are not relevant to you and your family's situation. We are doing our best to meet the needs of all our families, whether off-site or in school.

As you will be aware, the website has links for the home-based learning activities for children in all year groups from now until the Easter holidays (3rd April at 1:30pm!) If you haven't found them yet, these can be accessed [here](#)

Physical Activity

In addition to the home learning, our PE Lead Mr Joice has put together the following about physical activity for children:

A concerning aspect of the current climate is that children are going to be spending far more time indoors and being less active than they would during school times. Regular physical activity is going to be just as important as regular learning during the school closure time both for the children's physical and mental health.

When it is not possible to run around outside, here are some suggestions to help keep your children active throughout the day (that you could also join in!)

Go Noodle <https://www.gonoodle.com/> A range of dances and songs for children to follow. A free subscription is available for majority of content

Tour to Tokyo <https://www.getset.co.uk/resources/travel-to-tokyo/indoor-activity> A range of physical activities, most of which can be done indoors. Don't forget to log your activity!

Switch, Xbox and Playstation exercise games - There are a range of video games on consoles that require movement from the player (some require extra equipment) and are a great way to keep children exercising. If you do not have access to these, many examples from the games can be found on Youtube to follow.

Online Safety

With so much online learning (and exercise!) taking place, it is perhaps worth reminding everyone about the principles of online safety. The children have all had an update on this during this term (as every term) and we had planned another parent talk for the beginning of the Summer Term which may or may not take place, but please remind your children of the SMART rules and consider limiting screen time where possible. The professional advice is that it is best that Primary children are only online where they are under the supervision of an adult, so where possible phones, tablets, laptops etc shouldn't be in bedrooms unsupervised.

This is especially important where families have taken the decision to allow their children access to age-restricted content such as tik-tok, musical.ly, snapchat and Instagram.



Mass and Mass Times

Fr Bill has asked me to share the arrangements for Mass online now that parishes are no longer open for public worship. The churches are open for private prayer during the day, but Mass can be accessed online via St Erconwald's website

<https://www.sterconwalds.org.uk/mass.html> Sunday Mass is at 10am.

Collective Worship

To support families with collective worship at home, Michael George (an experienced primary head who is now Chaplain at Notre Dame) is sharing collective worship powerpoints for family use. We will add these to the website and they can be accessed [here](#)

Your children are used to the routine of collective worship daily in schools. All of the children, from the very youngest upwards, are able to set up an "altar" (in school we use a shoe-box sized box covered with a cloth – currently purple for Lent; a crucifix and a Bible story book and a candle) The children will know prayers like the Our Father and Hail Mary and the older children will be able to lead these.

Bible Timeline



In

school we have been working through a Bible Timeline with the children. We started with Creation in Week 1 and are now in Week 9 (Ruth). The reading for this week is Ruth 2:1-12 and 4:13 – 17. The idea is that the children know some of the characters from the Bible and

can remember them in order. Some of the younger children have been enjoying colouring pictures of the characters and you can find some of Ruth here: <https://ministry-to-children.com/ruth-coloring-page/>

Sharing Work

I am very conscious that the newsletter is normally full of the things the children have been learning in school. As we now have only 35 children in school and the majority of our school community are learning at home, it would be great if we could share some of that learning to enthuse the children and inspire others. We could, for example, upload some photos of home learning to the school website in Year Groups. If you would like to send photos which you are willing to share to the website, please send them to the office email address labelled with the year group(s). We will not use any children's names on the website for safeguarding reasons.

These are very strange and uncertain times and I am sure it is very unsettling for adults and children alike. We will do our best to keep you updated with any changes in the school situation and to maintain our sense of community even through all of the challenges we now face.

Stay safe and well at home.

God bless.

Catherine Burnham