



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. C Burnham



12th June, 2020

Dear Parents

I hope you have had a good week, despite the wet weather. In school, it seems to have gone very quickly. As we speed through the weeks, I thought it might be helpful to give a quick update about what we know at the moment (not too much, but I'll tell you what we do know!)

Current Situation

At Cardinal Newman, we have reached capacity in terms of the number of children we can safely provide for under the current guidance. We have 12 groups of up to 15 children across the school and have reached the limit of our staffing capacity to provide for more children. It is possible that the guidance may be relaxed to allow us to accommodate more children safely before the end of term, but at present there are no more places. I greatly look forward to the day when we can have our whole school community together again. Nevertheless, at present, we are bound by guidance which allows us only to admit a maximum of 180 children in our current staffing situation.

This means we have around 240 children currently undertaking home-learning. We are aware that some schools have simply stopped offering home learning provision now that they have teachers busy in school all day, but please be reassured that at Cardinal Newman, we will always support all of our families to the best of our ability. Our home-learning provision is set by class teachers and overseen by one specific teacher, while the children in school are following broadly the same learning as their home-learning counterparts. We are continuing the fortnightly calls to all families with children at home and remain committed to supporting any vulnerable families whose children are not able to be in school at present. The dedicated home learning email addresses are well used in all year groups and enable teachers to see completed work from their pupils. I have been very impressed with the standard of the work the children have been sending in and we have nominated some more children for Headteacher's Awards this week. We are blessed with very supportive families who continue to do their very best for their children in our current difficult circumstances. Thank you for all you are doing to support your children's education.

Summer Holidays

As the guidance stands, there is no expectation on schools to make provision for children over the summer holidays. School staff, who have been working very hard to support our children since well before the lockdown, are extremely grateful for this but we do recognise that equally hardworking parents may find this situation difficult! We plan to have summer holiday camps running on our school site – these will not be run by the school and will be charged by the companies as usual. There will be additional requirements on the companies with regard to smaller groups and not mixing children (as at school) so spaces will be limited and may require a commitment of the whole summer, rather than being able to book occasional days etc. The guidance for these arrangements has not yet been finalised. Please keep an eye out for further details in the next week or two if this is of interest to you.

September

We are asked regularly what the situation will be in school in September. As it stands, no-one knows! This is very dependent on the R-rate continuing to reduce and there is not yet any clear government guidance to schools because September is just too far off at present.

It is not particularly helpful to speculate, but it is perhaps worth parents being aware that the current situation will not just roll on into September at Cardinal Newman. There are some families who are currently eligible for a place but have chosen not to take it up yet. There are some members of staff – and indeed some households - currently shielding who may not need to be shielding in September. Even if the guidance to schools is identical in September (and we pray it will not be!), the situation at Cardinal Newman will not be identical. Children who are not currently in school may be – and those who are now may not be! The current “full-time for all” guidance may be changed to “part-time for all” provision. We may be permitted to have bigger groups and therefore admit our whole community full-time – this would obviously be our preferred option, but only when it is safe to do so. As ever, we can only do what is in the interests of the safety of our children and staff. The message at this stage – as so often at the moment! - is that this is a changing picture, so please don't assume anything and just watch this space! We will keep you all updated as soon as we know more.

And in other news.....!

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our First Holy Communion children at St Erconwald's who have now completed their preparations – they should have received the Eucharist for the first time this month, but we hope their special day will be able to happen later in the year instead! The children have been praised for their focus and commitment during their preparations and the parish would like to thank all the families for their support.

The First Communion programme is a good example of the mutual interdependence between Catholic school, Catholic parish and Catholic family. We are pleased that so many of our families have been preparing for First Holy Communion and we thank those from both the school and the parish community who have helped them this year as catechists: Tina O'Kelly, Sarah Chaudoir, Lisa Duddy, Helen Chiu, Anne-Marie Hodgkinson, Clare O'Shea. As ever, our thanks go also to Fr Bill for supporting the families and the catechist team. Thank you all!

Church Reopening

Following Government permission to reopen churches for private prayer from Monday, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has released a statement which is worth a read. <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-opening-churches-for-individual-prayer-is-big-step-forward-for-society/>

Please keep an eye on our parish websites for news of times when our local churches will be open for private prayer – this is likely to be a couple of hours a day initially.

As noted in the statement, Mass from Westminster Cathedral (celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols) will be aired on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday at 8:10am. [BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship](#)

Hall Extension

We are still hopeful that the Hall Extension project will go ahead on schedule this summer, though it may have to be postponed dependent on the funding situation. Governors are meeting to discuss the way forward in a couple of weeks time and we will keep you updated.

We would like to thank our Year 6 Leavers who have donated £300 towards the hall project from their “virtual ball” (held via Zoom! A Cardinal Newman first and by all accounts, a great time was had by all! Thank you!) We have also had generous donations from two families over the last couple of weeks and the Buy a Brick project has re-opened for anyone who missed out last term. We are very grateful for any support we receive, especially at the moment when we know finances are challenging for many families.

Virtual Sports Day

In another Cardinal Newman first, we are delighted to announce the date of our “Virtual Sports Day” will be Friday 3rd July. There will be 6 events and the children will be asked to practise and prepare for these events in the coming weeks. The first two events: Sprint and Standing Long Jump will be sent out to home-learning children this week, along with short coaching videos from our Planet Soccer sports coaches giving the children some tips about the best technique. Children will be asked to submit their best times / distances and also short videos of themselves completing the event (in house colours of course!). All children – whether at home or at school – are asked to compete and we look forward to an exciting whole school event! Good luck with the preparations!

And finally.....

Safety

Thank you for all of your care and consideration for each other when following the new systems around school. It is admirable how hard everyone is trying to keep our community safe. Just two brief notes following parent concerns this week:

- Please **avoid congregating** outside school for any reason – we know this is difficult when we haven’t seen each other for so long, but it is necessary to help everyone to maintain a safe social distance on Arch Road’s narrow pavements.
- At the gate to the school field (by the tunnel) please could:
Pedestrians be extra-vigilant and keep small children on bikes /scooters etc close to them
Drivers be extra-vigilant and exit the field as slowly and carefully as possible
So that we keep all our children safe.

Please see below the Headteacher’s Awards for this week – and do enjoy reading Aela’s super “Alternative Fairy Tale”! A triumph for Y6 Writing – well done Aela!

All best wishes for the weekend.

Catherine Burnham

Headteacher’s Awards for Home Learning:

Well done for all your hard work! Your awards are on their way!

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| Year 6 | Kate; Joshua W; Emme; Lydia |
| Year 5 | Ozzy R, Mateus; Daniel S; Tilly H |
| Year 4 | James N; Isabel P; Elea; Emma; Natalia |
| Year 3 | Isabella S; Isla L; Tom; Luma |
| Year 2 | Freddie P; Alfie; Tilly W |
| Year 1 | Olivier; Bianca; Giulio; Dorka |
| Year R | Eliza R; Millie D’R; Mia; Lexi |

Headteacher’s Awards for children in school:

Oliver B (Y3) for hard work and commitment to improvement in Maths (completed at home)

Aela (Y6) for a fantastic alternative fairy tale (completed at home – see below!)

Matty (Y5) for showing fantastic resilience in his learning

Jacob (Y4) for excellent behaviour in school

An Alternative Fairy Tale by Aela

You've all heard the story of the little house,

In which Baby Bear, Mum and spouse,

Lived together comfortably,

One big happy family,

And Goldilocks, that little mite,

THAT UTTER TERROR OF THE NIGHT,

Stole their food, broke the chair,

And slept in the bed of Baby Bear,

But she ran off and so you see,

The little thief got off scot-free!

But one day Goldilocks was caught,

And straightaway was sent to court,

She was sentenced to work (unpaid),

For five long years as the palace maid,

But as she worked at the castle,

She no longer acted like a rascal,

She was beautiful, without a doubt,

And soon the Prince did spy her out,

He said "Your beauty puts princesses to shame,

Tell me darling, what is your name?"

"Goldilocks." She answered quickly,

With a smile both sweet and sickly,

The prince went down onto one knee,

And said, "Will you marry me?",

She answered yes, all in a tizzy,

She made the prince feel awfully dizzy,

Her crimes were simply waved away,

She thought "This is my lucky day!".

The Prince adored his new-found wife,

And she adored the way of life,

But one night, as the Prince lay in bed and snored,

She started feeling rather bored,

So (Being careful not to wake him),

She started to do some exploration,

When she looked in the palace vaults, to her pleasure,

She found mountains and MOUNTAINS of golden
treasure!

The Goldilocks of old came back once more,

She dropped down onto the floor,

And started to gather up her spoils,

(Thinking she rightfully earned for her toils),

She said to the sleeping prince "Sorry, can't stay.",

Then into the night she dashed away.

She soon became a famous crook,

Thousands of heists she undertook,

And if you were robbed, everyone would say,

"That Goldilocks took it away!",

She was never caught, never jailed,

Not a single burglary she failed,

She was famous throughout the land,

For her stealing, snatching hand,

Which shows she hadn't changed a jot,

From when she was a thieving tot.

By Aela