



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School



Dear Parents

Thank you once again for your support and encouragement throughout this week. All of our staff are really appreciative of your hard work supporting your children to access the home learning and to stay safe and secure at home during this very challenging time.

Looking Ahead

I know many of you are keen to know (as am I!) what the future will look like – at the moment we cannot predict too far, but I am sending today a letter from Ani Magill, CEO of the Xavier Trust, who has written on this topic. We are keeping in close contact with the Xavier family of schools and with the schools locally in our area. I will of course let you know as soon as there is any further news.

VE Day

As you will be aware, this coming Friday is a Bank Holiday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Thursday had been intended as a themed day in school with a big whole school celebration planned. To that end, we have kept Thursday as a VE themed day within our home learning and we are sending some whole school activities for the children to enjoy. These can be found under each classes page under “VE celebrations” on the website. There are also some additional videos [here](#) about the D-Day Landings and lead-up to VE Day which might help to give KS2 children more context about why VE Day was such a big celebration. There is a loose timetable to use if that suits your family, or do feel free to make your own plan. We know some families may need to work from home, so might prefer to access the Thursday work on the usual websites for Maths and English, then put the VE Day learning into the Friday or the weekend instead. That is all fine. Please be as flexible as you need to be.

I have recorded a very short message for the children for VE Day which will be sent out on Wednesday night and we are planning to send out a short staff video clip too. We hope that the children will enjoy seeing their teachers and that seeing school staff will help them feel the connection with school during what might have been a whole school celebration day. We would love to have some photos of you and your family celebrating VE Day – we hope to

be able to put together some pictures to share with you the following week, so do please send them in!

There are song words and You Tube links on the [website](#) to some of the popular wartime songs, including “We’ll Meet Again” which is planned as a national sing along for VE Day – it would be great if the children could learn some of these and enjoy singing them. We hope to be able to sing them together as a whole school when we are able to “meet again.”

Maths Resources

You might notice this week that the White Rose Maths Resources are in a slightly different format than previously. This is due to the end of free access to resources on the White Rose website. We are delighted to say that Cardinal Newman uses White Rose Maths for day to day teaching and so we are still able to access the resources your children need and put them on our own website. You will still have everything but will have to access White Rose website for the free access resources and our own school website for the others. We don’t anticipate any issues with this, but do ask your class teacher on your regular phone call if you are having any difficulties.

Rosary – May is the month of Mary

As we begin the month of May – the month of Mary in the Church’s year - we would usually be saying a decade of the rosary every day in school. If you would prefer to do this in your family prayer time instead of the other prayers suggested, please do so. During May, on Wednesdays at 8:40am, (the time for the rosary on our weekly schedule) I will lead a decade of the rosary for the children from the school chapel. Keep an eye on your email for the link and just follow it if you would like to join in with me.

Family Support

We are aware that many families in our school community are under extreme pressure at the moment. For some families, these worries are physical – for the health of themselves or their loved ones - while for others the worries are financial, with many families experiencing a significant loss of income at the moment. Please be aware that the school is delivering food fortnightly to those who would benefit from a food delivery – it may be to families who are self-isolating or finding it difficult to get out to the shops for other reasons, as well as to families who are having either very temporary cash flow problems or longer term financial difficulties. Do please let us know if you feel your family would benefit from a food delivery either as a one-off or on a regular basis.

Surrey Police and Surrey Children’s Services have made us aware that they are experiencing a much higher volume of calls than normal relating to Domestic Violence. Witnessing Domestic Violence has a long-term impact on children’s emotional wellbeing and it is important for our children’s mental health that there is no prolonged exposure to violence

in their homes. We know that there is domestic abuse occurring within our school community and we would like to support all of our families as much as possible. You can access the Surrey guidance on Domestic Violence during lockdown in the attached document – this includes helpline numbers to access support. Please remember that the school’s Safeguarding Team – myself, Mr Flower and Ms Hunt – are always available to support our families with any issues which might affect our children. There is always a Designated Safeguarding Lead onsite during the school day, so please don’t hesitate to contact us if these, or any other issues, have affected you and your family.

Celebrating Achievement

Congratulations to **Imogen Scullard (Y2)** who has used her lockdown time to write a whole chapter book called “Tinkerbell’s Adventure”. Her work was praised by Chris Duke – the writer of Lucy’s Blue Day – who came in to share his story and talk about becoming an author. His talk clearly inspired Imogen, which is great to hear! Well done Imogen!

Well done also to **Isabelle Baker (Y3)** who contributed to Mass from St Erconwald’s – we are very proud of you for reading so beautifully. Thank you! You can see Isabelle’s reading on the St Erconwald’s You Tube page [here](#). We will be having a whole school “streamed Mass” from St Erconwald’s for the **Feast of the Ascension on 21st May**, so keep an eye on the newsletters next week to see how your child can contribute to that whole school Mass. We will be looking for prayers, pictures and readers!

Alex Kepinski (Reception) achieved a Headteacher’s Award on Monday for his fantastic work designing a Pirate Ship. Well done Alex!

Well done to everyone who has sent in photos and examples of work – we have enjoyed seeing what you have been up to! This week’s photos can be found [here](#). Please keep sending your photos and emails about your children’s great work for us to celebrate on the website. Next week we will also have the outcome of the current TT RockStars Battle! Keep up the good work on those times tables KS2!

Keep it simple

I know I have said it before, but I think it bears repeating that the most important thing at the moment is that you focus on supporting your children’s emotional wellbeing at home. All families have different contexts and different needs, so please don’t put any additional pressure on yourselves or your children to get “all the work done” or to do all the “amazing activities” that other families are posting on Facebook or whatever. If the lockdown has taught us nothing else, it has made us recognise the value in simplicity and enjoying the little things in life. If your children are reading at home, they are including some physical activity each day and they are enjoying some laughter with the family, you are doing very

well indeed. As for everything else, don't worry about it. Do what you can within your own family setting, and whether that is all of the activities or none of them, enjoy this precious family time and stay safe.

May God bless you and keep you always in His love.

Catherine Burnham

Headteacher