



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School



7th May, 2020

Dear Parents

VE Day

We hope the children enjoyed the VE Day staff video and that they have had fun preparing for the Big VE Day Bank Holiday tomorrow! Although a short week doesn't have quite the same feel in lockdown, the forecast is for sunshine and we've all got a reason to celebrate, so what's not to like! I hope you and your families have a lovely weekend. We are looking forward to seeing all the photos of your VE Day celebrations – we would like to put together a virtual display of these in next week's newsletter, so do please send them in!

Planning Ahead

Of course, this weekend will also hail the long-awaited announcement from the Government. I have no "inside information" and I won't add to the plethora of predictions which are out there, except to say I think we should be expecting it will be a slow and steady return to school with very few children at a time and some adjustment (possibly some considerable adjustment) from the norm for a long time to come. The most important thing is that we keep both children and staff safe and well, physically, but also emotionally and spiritually. We will continue to liaise with our partner schools in the Xavier MAT and with our colleagues in local schools and across Surrey to make the best possible choices within the difficult situation we find ourselves in. As soon as we have concrete information to share with you about our future plans, we will be in touch again.

I would like to thank you all once again for your incredible support and great fortitude in managing this challenge so well. It has been a great joy to hear from so many parents thanking staff for their hard work and for going the extra mile during this crisis. We are really aware of the difficulties families are facing – it hits all of us at different times and in different ways – but we know too that you are doing a great job taking care of your children and supporting them to stay safe at home. Thank you.

Online Safety

On the subject of staying safe at home, please can I draw your attention to the information attached from Surrey Police regarding the use of Zoom. Most of us have probably had some experience of Zoom and similar virtual tools during the past weeks and it is worth being aware of the best way to

use these effectively. Please do also be extra vigilant about your children's safety online – Mr Flower, our school Safeguarding Lead has written some key points in the attached document.

Prayer and Worship

Zoom (with all appropriate privacy settings!) was very effective in enabling almost 50 families to connect and pray a decade of the Rosary together on Wednesday morning. Thank you to all those who took part – it was lovely to see brothers and sisters sitting side by side and praying the Rosary together and waving and singing so joyfully! School is a very silent place to be at the moment and it was certainly a great joy to me to be able to see so many of the children. I have had feedback from many families that the children also enjoyed it and I hope you will join me again next week at 8:40am on Wednesday morning.

Just a reminder that there will be a whole school opportunity to participate in Mass for the Feast of the Ascension at 9:30am on 21st May from St Erconwald's. More details will be available nearer the time. The children have been asked to produce bidding prayers and pictures to personalise the Mass to our school – these can be sent to the office FAO Mrs Emma Sharp (RE Lead). Mrs Sharp will also be asking for Prayer Council volunteers to film themselves read the prayers, so do contact her via the office if you would like to.

Home Learning

Thank you for all your continued engagement with the home learning we are sending home. We know that some families are completing the whole pack with children in uniform following the school day to the letter, while others are doing only one or two activities per day. Both of these approaches are absolutely fine – as is anything in between. As well as all the academic learning we are hearing about, there is also a great deal of independence developing in our children, as well as skills such as gardening, baking, den construction and knitting, to name but a few! Let us not underestimate the importance of these softer skills. A daily act of kindness is also much to be recommended and I am hearing great things about children writing to grandparents, helping their parents and even (with some incredulity!) being kind to their siblings some of the time! Long may that last! This week's home learning photos can be found [here](#).

I understand that the teacher phone calls continue to be useful and that teachers have been able to speak to and motivate many of the children very effectively. If you have any questions or problems with the work set, do use the teacher phone calls to support you with this. We have set up direct home learning email addresses for each year group and we hope these will help you with your direct communication to the year group for straightforward queries and to submit examples of work. The email addresses are formatted: y1homelearning@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk and we hope you will find these helpful. Significant issues should still be notified to the senior leadership team via the school office in the normal way.

This coming week, we are implementing by telephone some of the most straightforward Reading and Maths interventions which were planned to take place over the Summer Term. We are concentrating on the older children in Years 4 to 6 in the first instance and will focus on ensuring a firm foundation for those pupils as they continue on their learning journey. If your child has been identified as benefitting from one of these interventions, we will be writing to you separately with

more information. All EHCP children will have contact from one of their named LSAs. Similarly children who have been receiving ELSA support in school will be continuing that important intervention if parents believe it is appropriate at this time. For all interventions by phone, we would ask that an adult is in the same room as the child at all times please.

Celebrating Achievements

Congratulations to Ruby Class, who have overtaken Emerald Class for the first time in Times Tables Rock Stars, to become the new Class Champions for this battle! Well done all of you!

Top scorers for each class are listed below. Well done Mario who was top scorer in the school this time!

Garnet: 475

Top 3: Evie (475)

Amethyst: 8580

Top 3: Erin (5023), Thomas D (2093), Emily(858)

Opal: 18475

Top 3: Henry P (6304), Peter (4288), George (3614)

Coral: 19277

Top 3: Emilia (6308), Lea (3054), Natalia (2822)

Sapphire: 20191

Top 3: Ellie (5931), Joseph (2352), Archie (2151)

Topaz: 25148

Top 3: Mario (10820), Rhys (4212), Joseph (2346)

Emerald: 25725

Top 3: Sara (8716), Ella (5614), Simon (1792)

Ruby: 35510

Top 3: Fabio (9018), Dominik (7565), Oliver (6652)

Congratulations also to Sebastian Shaw (YR) who received a Headteacher's Award this week! He has been writing a little bit in his writing book each day at home and he has made fantastic progress!

Congratulations and thank you go to Abi England (Y6) who included all of us in her VE Day preparations – she has interviewed her Grandad Bob, who witnessed the VE Day celebrations outside Buckingham Palace in 1945. You can see her interview [here](#). Well done Abi – a really fascinating bit of history!

With all best wishes for the weekend

Catherine Burnham