

Newsletter November 27th 2020

Dear Parents,

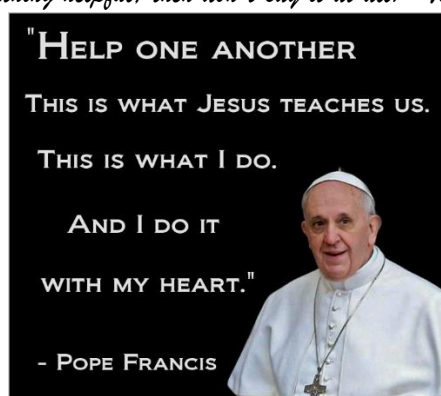
Thank you to all staff, parents and pupils who have continued to reflect our mission and school values this week. The values we embrace are integrity, compassion, kindness, humility, justice, forgiveness, peace and courage. These values are especially important to us locally and nationally during this pandemic. The children in school and working from home have demonstrated these in abundance and I am proud and grateful for their contributions to the life of our school.

We recognise the inconvenience caused to many families when there is a positive case of COVID-19 within our community and how disruptive this is to our daily lives. The staff have worked incredibly hard to set up remote learning that mirrors the learning within school to help the children continue to make progress. The teachers and office staff are happy to answer queries as they arise to help the remote learning go as smoothly as possible.

This week we have had a two confirmed cases, and as a result of Public Health England advice Class 1W, Year 3 and Year 6 have been advised to self-isolate as a precaution – to protect our community. All advice and communication sent out to parents has been vetted by PHE and BCP and follows DfE advice.

It is most unhelpful when speculation and inaccurate information is shared on social media – this only serves to worry and cause anxiety. If you have any queries, please direct them directly to the school and our team will reassure you of what you need to know and do.

A wise man once said 'If you can't say something helpful, then don't say it at all.' This is echoed by words of Pope Francis:



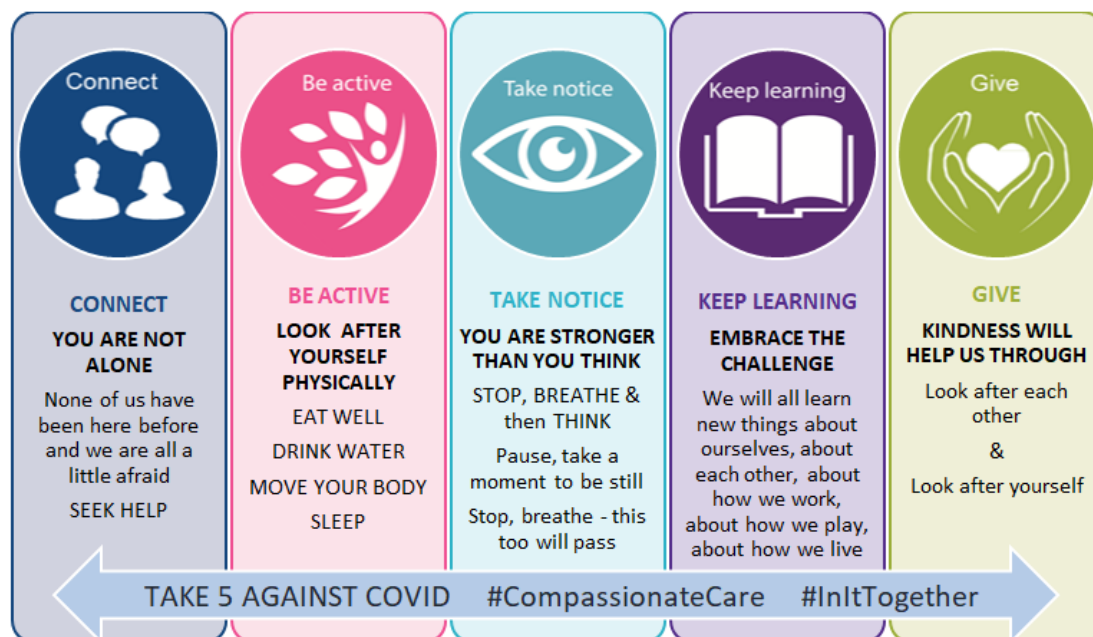
We welcome back our Year R pupils today – and send our best wishes to other pupils and staff self-isolating. Please remember that self-isolation means staying at home and not leaving the house.

Please be reassured that staff are extremely vigilant – in fact COVID-19 control measures are at the forefront of our monitoring and daily life here at Christ the King. Cleaning routines are rigorous and the many staff who maintain these additional duties are heroes – determined to keep our school safe and

open. We have been unfortunate that members of our community within school and in our wider community have been confirmed as Positive CV, however we continue to work determinedly for the wellbeing of our community – safety first and learning embedded in our Gospel Values.

Well-being and Self Care

We recognise that many of you will be struggling to cope with the sometimes overwhelming and ongoing challenges that Covid presents. Positive mental health and well-being is something that we always need to be mindful of; it is a key focus of our curriculum at Christ the King. It is just as important for adults to pay attention to their own well-being. Below is a visual reminder, from the Public Health Agency, of five elements of well-being:



The website below offers guidance and further information:

[coronavirus/guidance-hsc-staff-healthcare-workers-and-care-providers/staff-health-and](https://www.hsc.gov.uk/coronavirus/guidance-hsc-staff-healthcare-workers-and-care-providers/staff-health-and)

We would urge everyone to find the time to try to engage with all five elements of well-being to stay well. Crucially, please do speak up if you need help – we can then do our best to support you or signpost you to agencies outside school.

Patchwork Parenting

Below is a short survey to look at the feelings of parents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and what PATCHWORK can offer in terms of support, the link is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QVFB3V2>.

In addition to this PATCHWORK offer a 'Lockdown Lowdown' session one for each school, in terms of a virtual coffee morning- so that parents can come together and chat with regard to their concerns. Watch out for more information.

Sponsored Sleep on The Floor

The Plymouth Diocese Catholic Children's Society are holding a sponsored event taking place in the Christmas holidays to raise much needed funds. The charity relies entirely on the generous support of parishioners, schools and individual donors – as most fundraising events have been cancelled due to Covid-19, the donations received this year have been far less than they have been previously. This comes at a time when the number of grant applications for financial help is increasing steadily, as more and more vulnerable children and their families are being affected.

The sponsored 'Sleep on the Floor for a Night' can be held at any point during the school holidays and we are simply asking children (and adults if they like), to put themselves in the shoes of other less fortunate children, some of whom do not have a comfy bed to sleep in every night. This is part of the Diocesan Good Shepherd programme and with an average sponsorship total of say £10, the support from say 100 children in the Diocese means we could purchase beds and mattresses for 10 vulnerable children sleeping on the floor.

A poster, a sponsorship form and our generic leaflet have been emailed separately to you.



Michael Rosen

We have postponed this exciting visit until the New Year as a result of class absences.

Remote Learning at Christ the King School

Well done to all pupils in Year 1W, Year 3 and Year 6 for engagement with remote learning – remote learning is not optional and staff are on hand to support with any queries. A big shout out to pupils who have joined live Google Meetings. Please do encourage your child to join in.

Flu Immunisations

Flu immunisations will be going ahead on 1st December for pupils that are in school and have parental consent. The school nursing team will visit at a later date to immunise pupils who are self-isolating next week.

Safeguarding - Online

Please be vigilant and limit the time that your children are spending gaming on line or on group chats. Please check their devices regularly for signs of on-line bullying, for example: name calling, inappropriate language, pressure to respond, etc. If your child's behaviour changes or they are reluctant to share their interactions on line, please talk to us and we will signpost you to help.



EYFS Open Day

Our Early Years virtual presentations and videos are posted on the website on our admissions page. Please do check this page regularly for updates. If you require a school place for your child in September 2021 the deadline for applications is January 2021. If you require any further information or advice, please contact the school and we will help you.

Pre-School Admissions

We currently have places available in our Pre-School for pupils age 3 years+ Please do look at our virtual presentation and video on our website for more information.

<http://www.ckcps.com/website/admissions/307449>

Advent

The season of Advent begins on Sunday 29th November and ends on Thursday 24th December. It is a time of waiting hopefully for the best gift of all, our Lord Jesus. As parents, we need to support our children in remembering the meaning behind Christmas.

CAFOD's Family Advent Calendar 2020

Our 2020 online Advent calendar for families has a daily reflection and free activity for you and your children in preparation for Christmas. Join us as we journey throughout the season of Advent with our global family.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/For-families/Family-Advent-Calendar>

A prayer for Advent

Light up our lives

Christ, come into our world of darkness

Light up our lives with your coming.

Fulfil all our longings with the joy of your birth

Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world

And to share the hope of your birth that each Advent brings.

Amen.

Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD



Let Us Pray

We give thanks for:

- The pupils and staff community of Christ the King School for their positivity and attitude to learning and wellbeing.
- Our community of Christ the King Church and the support of the parish.
- Our pupils in Year 6 who have planned and prepared whole school collective worship for Anti-Bullying Week.
- Those who stand up for what is right in their professions, their communities and their families
- The work of all those trying to finalise a vaccine against the Corona virus and for the volunteers who have come forward to help.
- All the good things in our life – our families, our friends, our beautiful surroundings.

We pray for:

- All those unwell with COVID-19 and those self-isolating this week.
- The grandfather of one of our KS1 pupils who passed away this week, may he rest in peace.
- The pupils, their families and the staff find rest during these busy and demanding times.
- Fr Chacko and all members of our Christ the King School and Parish family.

'You, Lord, are the light that keeps me safe. I am not afraid of anyone. You protect me, and I have no fears.'

Psalm 27:1

And finally, have a good weekend and enjoy time with your loved ones.

Best wishes to you all.

Clare Tickel
Headteacher

faith
hope
love

