

18th February 2021

Christ the King News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a grateful heart that we arrive at our half term break. Although staff and pupils are tired, we are grateful for the time that we have spent together this half term and that we have learned many new things and enjoyed many moments together. We are disappointed to be closed today for face-to-face learning but appreciate your support in enabling the children to access their learning tasks and class zoom meetings. All CAST schools were directed to close today due to the risks posed by storm Eunice, as were all Dorset and BCP schools. We are sorry for the inconvenience that this will have caused many of our parents.

After half term we launch into a new era for Christ the King School as I oversee the leadership and learning at both Christ the King School and St Mary's School in Poole. I will share my time between our two sister schools and will work hard to ensure continuity and transparency. Mrs Lord, as my deputy and head of school, will deputise in my absence.

Covid -19 Control Measures

Until the DfE advise otherwise we will continue with the Covid measures that work in school. This will include social distancing, wearing of face coverings and hygiene measures. We are anticipating, however, a relaxation of COVID-Control measures across schools by the end of March and will inform all parents once we have updated advice from CAST and BCP.

Please can we ask all families to test children on the morning of the first day back to school on Tuesday 1st March. This will make a big difference in reducing cases after half term Thank you.

Book Week

We are very excited about Book Week after half term. This year we are combining Book Week with a Laudato Si theme on caring for our planet – specifically wildlife. A letter with more information regarding this has been sent out today via email. Here is an insight in to what the theme for this week will be:

WORLD WILDLIFE WARRIORS



How can reading make us care more for our shared home?

Thursday 3rd March

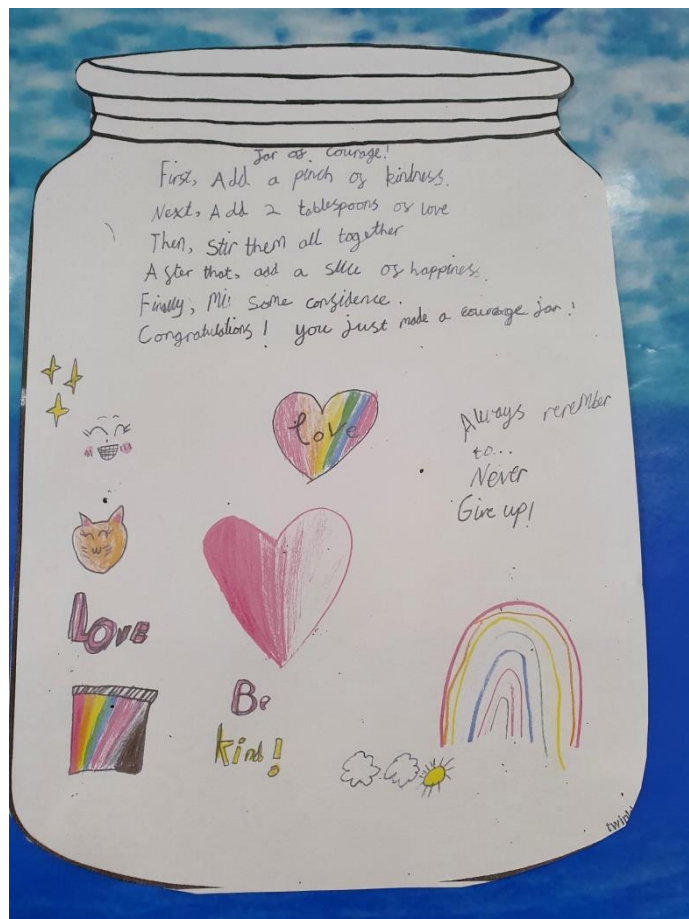
Dress To Express The Importance of Wildlife!

This year, we would like the children to dress up as a wild animal... an animal that is currently endangered in the world or at threat of extinction. Please do not buy costumes and try to use sustainable materials. Children could make a face mask or ears, or wear clothing of that animal's colour. There will be an environmentally friendly prize in each Key Stage for the most thought provoking costume at the end of this week!



Celebration of Learning

One of the Year 3 activities for Mental Health week was to create a Jar of Courage. The children listened to the story 'The Wolf's Colourful Coat' and thought about what values they would need to show courage. Year 3 also linked this to our Trick Box skills - such as 'Mirror Mirror' and 'Stand tall'.



Parrots true colours ... expressing ourselves in mental health week:



Year R have been learning about Africa this week - making masks and parrots! We even had a special visitor, Orren's Mum, who came to tell us all about Kenya!



All children enjoyed a lovely concert by the Klezmer Trio, playing traditional Klezmer music on Double Bass, Clarinet and Piano Accordion:



Car Park

The local neighbourhood and residents have always been accommodating with the start and end of day congestion and are grateful to all parents for considerate parking – especially those that choose to park further away to ease the congestion.

A few reminders:

1. Please park safely – not on double yellow lines, yellow zigzags or corners.
2. The church carpark is private and not for school use.
3. The school carpark is not to be used as a drop off zone – if you arrive late at school, please park on the road and walk your children to the front entrance. Use of the carpark is by invitation only or for emergency use.

Punctuality is important!

HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

Punctuality really is important! Being late can be very unsettling for children. Although staff are always welcoming and understanding of the reasons given for lateness, we do not want any children to miss out on the calming routines within class that prepare them for their day. We do not want any children to miss their 'start the day' learning activities. A few minutes of lateness can happen to all of us; however lateness of 15 minutes+ does have a detrimental impact on a child's learning and disrupts lessons.

So what are we doing about it? Mrs Hodge and Mrs Alyson Hammond-Forge already support many families who struggle with attendance and staff are always welcoming and supportive of the children. If you need support with morning routines and would like to talk to a member of our pastoral team then please let Mrs Lord know.

The Hot Chocolate Friday proposal is intended to be a short term scheme, to be inclusive and not to embarrass any pupils who are late due to no fault of their own or due to challenging circumstances. Mrs Lord has reviewed the proposal and has confirmed that all children for the class with the highest level of punctuality will take part. There will, of course, be the option of an alternative for those that do not like hot chocolate. Mrs Lord and Mrs Walker will work with the school council to consider other incentives after Easter.



Attendance

Good attendance is 95% or above; sadly, we have seen a dramatic slide in good attendance across the school. Covid-19 has contributed to this as some pupils have needed to self-isolate or have been unwell. We will be sending out attendance letters to families where there are concerns and encourage you to work with us so that we can support you in getting your child in school regularly.

Covid Update

This week we have had 4 positive cases.

Express Yourself – Mental Health Week

Well done and thank you to all children who contributed to our charity fundraiser on Friday 11th March – we raised £187.80 for a mental health charity. It was wonderful to see children relaxed in their favourite clothes and freely talking about ways that they can help themselves and others to be happy. Thank you for your support.

Online Safety Policy

We have updated our Online Safety Policy and this can be viewed on our website. Please do take the time to have a look at the policy. Please also be vigilant at home, check that you have parental settings applied to all devices. Make sure that you know who your children are gaming with online and ensure you can hear the conversations that are taking place.

Hot Meals

Please involve your children in selecting their hot meal choices – this week we have seen an increasing number of children saying they don't like their chosen meal. We really want the children have a happy and calm lunchbreak and not liking your food choice can be stressful for some.

Catholic Life Update from Mrs Lord

Our Pilgrimage to the Cross

Last month, we were very excited to launch the **Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage**. Watch the video below to see more about the exciting spiritual journey that your child and thousands of others will be going on over the coming months:

<https://vimeo.com/665582577/21b1847c9a>

This year, Ash Wednesday falls during the last week of February/first week of March, and the ash crosses we mark on our foreheads signify the starting line of our Lenten preparation for Easter. This week also heralds the next 'stopping place' on our **Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage: Our Pilgrimage to the Cross**. This stopping place is actually a 'mini-series' of six assemblies where children will be led by peer Pilgrimage Guides on a discovery journey involving mysterious objects, surprising locations and clues which help them to look to God (pray), look to themselves (change their behaviour) and look to others (almsgiving).

We'll share with you more about **Our Pilgrimage to the Cross** in the March and April newsletters, but for now, why not help your child get excited about the **Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage**? Like the Blue Peter totalisers of old which lit up as each landmark was reached, we have produced a **Pilgrimage Map** to help children mark their progress on the journey! This is an incomplete map, with coloured stickers which children can add when they have virtually visited each pilgrimage stopping place.

We want children, staff and families alike to feel involved in the **Ten Ten Year of Pilgrimage**, so if you want to dive deeper, read this article:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/the-hub/packing-for-pilgrimage/>

Why not...

Download and print out the **Pilgrimage Map** and display it somewhere in your home, if you haven't already done so. You might like to suggest that your child colours in the map. As your child passes each stopping place (we'll let you know when they do!), ask them to cut out and stick on the 'stickers' to mark their progress. These files are downloadable from the main Parent Newsletter webpage. Let us pray together this prayer of blessing for your pilgrimage journey:

**God of our journey,
be with us on this pilgrimage,
and guide our feet along your path of life.
Be our companion by day and by night;**

and may we feel your presence at our side.
Keep us safe and give us your blessing,
that our journey, begun in faith,
may reach its true completion through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Prayer

In the week commencing 7th February, children learned that just like Simon Peter who took a leap of faith in doing what Jesus said when he was told to 'put out into the deep', living out Jesus' word means listening to and trusting in Him – even when we don't fully understand. Children were invited to reflect on five Bible verses throughout the week, to encourage and help them on their journey of following Jesus.

Why not read and reflect on these verses with your child:

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart (Proverbs 3: 5)
- Be kind to each other (Ephesians 4: 32)
- God is my rest and my comfort (Matthew 11: 28)
- No problem is too big for God (1 Peter 5: 7)
- God knows me and loves me (Psalm 139: 14)

You might like to look them up and read the wider context of each verse.

Holy Family Parish Youth Group

The Holy Family Parish Youth Groups provide our young people with an opportunity to socialise, learn and Pray in a safe and nurturing environment;

JAM Jesus and Me, ages 7 to 10yrs
5.45 to 7pm 2nd Tuesday each Month.
CTK church lounge.

IGNITE Youth Fellowship, Fun, Food, Singing, Dancing, Discussion and Prayer.
Lunch included
Ages 11 to 13yrs
CTK church lounge
Every 3rd Saturday each month.
1pm to 3.30pm

SPIRITUS ages 13 yrs to 16 yrs
Our Lady and St. Bernadette's parish lounge, Ensbury Park
First Wednesday every month.
6pm to 7.30pm

Let Us Pray

We give thanks for:

- Our emergency services and everyone who works to keep our community safe.
- A successful half term at school and the opportunity to relax and spend time with our families during half term.

We pray for:

- Peace in our world, especially between Russia and Ukraine.
- A happy and safe half term for our whole school community.
- Safety and protection for our whole school community, especially through storm Eunice.

And finally, we wish you and your family a good break next week and I look forward to seeing you after half term.

Kind regards,

Clare Tickel
Headteacher

