

Westminster Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Founded by The Jesuit Fathers Circa 1849



Newsletter

Monday 30th March 2020

'Love one another as I have loved you'

John 13:34

Dear parents and friends,

We are now in Week 2 of home learning. I hope you are receiving the emails from your class teacher. The teachers are telling me they are really enjoying receiving your replies and seeing the work the children have done—it is so lovely to know the connection and the community is very much alive at Westminster Cathedral Primary School even it is only through emails, texts and phone calls.

I hope you were able to read the email Miss Smith sent last week, she shared with you, how we as a school leadership team feel about you all and your response to the situation we are faced with. She wrote, *"Firstly, I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your support during this challenging time. You have been positive and understanding with staff, responded as we have asked you to and demonstrated your support by recognising the challenges we have faced recently."*

For most of you, we will now enter a period where we won't see many of you face to face for a while. Rest assured that we are still here for as long as staffing allows us to be, and we will keep in regular contact with you: you will also be able to contact us if you face any significant problems and need support during the period of school closure.

You can contact the Senior Leadership team during term time, throughout the school day, via our school email address office@westcath.co.uk: please do let us know if you are finding it difficult at home in any way, including if you are self-isolating and do not have a support team around you, as we may be able to help or signpost support. We will obviously keep you updated during school closure if we receive any more information about the period of closure."

Miss Smith talked about home learning and the activities that are being sent home, *"please do not worry about getting through home learning ideas - we have provided plenty because we'd rather you had too many than too few so you can choose the ones you want to do. Even if, as a minimum, you read to your child each day, find out the answer to one of their questions, or ask them to work out the ingredients and follow a recipe, you are helping your child learn."*

I have been working from home this week and, believe me, I know exactly how difficult it is to balance work and children's learning: with a 7 and 5 year old wanting support with school work (and wanting snacks EVERY FIVE MINUTES), a 1 year old biting at my ankles and one very distracted mother (me!), it isn't always the most productive environment! Just be kind to yourself and manage what you can." A good reminder from Miss Smith about home learning. I too have been balancing home-schooling and running a school from home and learning a lot about myself and my family! The senior leadership team have also learnt a new skill this week—how to video conference and hold our virtual daily meetings using Zoom. We have had to use our 'growth mind-set' this week. I will leave you with an image of Miss Smith and myself trying to turn on the cameras on our devices at the start of the meeting and hearing each other say, "how do you turn this off?" at the end of the meeting. Keep safe and well. Mrs Stacey

Free School Meals. I am so pleased to hear all families, who are entitled, have received their school meal vouchers.

Please look out for an email from Miss Smith via the school office:

As you are aware your child has been able to get free school meals if they're in a government-funded school and in: reception class, year 1, year 2.

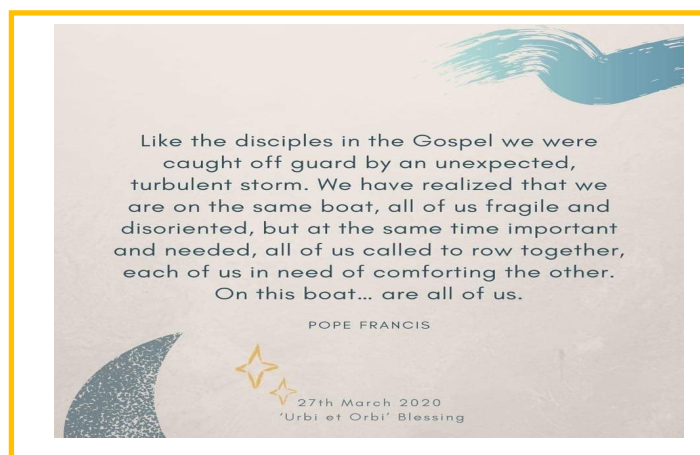
We have found that as these meals are automatic, parents have sometimes failed to inform the local authority that they are actually entitled to Free School Meals status.

The Key Stage 1 free school meals does not apply during this current period whilst you are at home, however, your child may be able to get free school meals vouchers if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.
- Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both: younger than the compulsory age for starting school in full-time education

For all parents in all year groups—in this time of change, your family income circumstances may have also changed. If you fit into any of the above categories please contact Mrs Beach on office@westcathsch.co.uk who will be able to send you the forms to complete.

If you are eligible and the forms are processed, then you will receive supermarket vouchers to go towards food during term time of this lock down period whilst your child can not come to school.





<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>

Staying Safe Online

CEOP - Child Exploitation and Online Protection - have created a package to help you support children and families during COVID-19 school closures, online safety at home.

Each fortnight, CEOP will be releasing new home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities you can do with your child to support their online safety at a time when they will be spending more time online at home.

There are separate packs for children of different ages.

Learning about online safety at home

Schools across the UK are now closed to most families. We know this is a difficult time for most parents. This page is intended to provide you with support and resources to help you learn about online safety at home with your child.

Parents and Carers Helpsheets

If you haven't already, the first thing to do is read our Parents and Carers Helpsheets - there is one for [primary](#) and one for [secondary](#). These contain key online safety advice and links to our resources, as well as support services.

Home activity packs

Once you have read the Helpsheets, click on the links to download your first home activity packs for each age range.

Each pack contains two 15 minute activities to do with your child, using Thinkuknow resources. The next two will be released in a fortnight's time.

If you're worried about your child's online activity and think something is not quite right, it's best to be on the safe side and find out more.

Where can I get help?

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Get-help/>

Report an incident to CEOP.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Get-help/Reporting-an-incident>

General resource List

Please find below a range of educational websites to suit all interests.

All Ways Educating - <https://www.awediscounts.com/>

BBC Bitesize – many schools use this already and it has a wide variety of suitable resources across the age range.

BBC Learning - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/>

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

BBC iPlayer

There has been an announcement that additional education resources will be made available by the BBC through the iPlayer platform.

Blue Peter Badges - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges> If you have a stamp and a nearby post box.

Audible gives young people can access online spoken word books. This does not require a subscription and audible can be accessed through a wide range of devices – so should be widely accessible.

<https://www.imore.com/audible-offering-hundreds-titles-six-languages-kids-free>

Cbeebies Radio - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio> Listening activities for the younger pupils.

Crash Course - <https://thecrashcourse.com> You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids - <https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids> As above for a younger audience.

DK Find Out - Activities and quizzes

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/?fbclid=IwAR2wJdpSJSelTf4do6aPhff8A3tAktmpaxqZbkgudD49I71ep8-sjXmrac>

Economics / critical thinking - <https://economistfoundation.org/resources/> under the general section. The target is upper years primary and Key Stage 3. These are topical activities from 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Education otherwise - <https://www.educationotherwise.org/index.php/links/37-activities-teaching-and-learning> This is aimed at parents who are educating their children at home long term, but resources can be adapted.

Futurelearn - <https://www.futurelearn.com>

Free to access 100s of courses, only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account).

Seneca - GCSE and A Level - <https://www.senecalearning.com> - For those revising at GCSE or A level. Free revision content. Paid access to higher level material.

IDEA Awards - <https://idea.org.uk> Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

London curriculum - <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/london-curriculum>

National Geographic Kids - <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/> Activities and quizzes for younger children.

Nature Detectives - <https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>

A lot of these can be done in a garden, or if you can get to a remote forest location.

Openlearn - <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/> Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment courses could well be of interest to young people.

Oxford Owl for Home - <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/> Lots of free resources for Primary age pupils.

Paw Print Badges - <https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk> Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Ted Ed - <https://ed.ted.com> All sorts of engaging educational videos

Ted talks youth - as search term in You Tube brings up some wonderful talks that teachers can direct pupils to.

The Kids Should See This - <https://thekidshouldseethis.com> Wide range of educational videos.

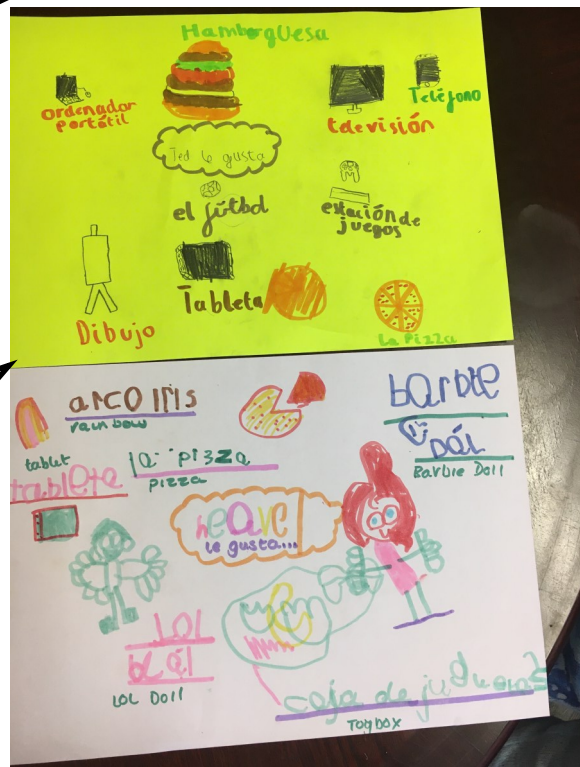
Tinkercad - <https://www.tinkercad.com> All kinds of making with a scientific twist.

Toy Theatre - <https://toytheater.com/> Educational online games

Last week I invited you to send in any photographs of the work and activities you have been doing at home.



Here is a photo of Prince in Year 2 completing Science experiments at home.



Here is a picture of Ted, in Year 5, and his younger sister Neave's Spanish work. They wrote all the things they like in Spanish,

Below are photographs of the work our key worker children have been completing in school.

