

Westminster Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Founded by The Jesuit Fathers Circa 1849



Newsletter



Monday 4th May 2020

'Love one another as I have loved you'

John 13:34

Dear parents and friends,



To think we are in the month of May, the month of our lady. May is a time in the Catholic tradition to honour Jesus' mother and the mother of our Church. If we were at school we would have created a "May Altar" and would have had fresh flowers surrounding the beautiful Mary statue by the school office. We would focus our prayers on Mary's importance in the life of the Church and in our own lives as well. The Diocese of Westminster has sent through some beautiful resources that will focus you and your family on Mary during the month of May. Please look for these on our school website in the 'Church and Community' section.

Along with this newsletter I have attached;

- this week's Wednesday Word,
- a newsletter from Bessborough Family Hub,
- a couple of posters from Westminster Children Services
- a letter titled, 'A People who Hope in Christ' written and signed by the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

This Friday is a bank holiday. This year it was moved from the traditional Monday to Friday by the Queen to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day—Victory over Europe. 75 years ago World War 2 ended in Europe on the 8th May 1945 and there were many celebrations along the streets of London. Unfortunately any large, communal celebrations have been cancelled this year however there are still celebrations to be had which do not involve crowded festivals and parties. Your child's class teacher will be sending you a pack of activities you can complete at home to mark the 75th anniversary.



Also;

- At 11am, a national two-minute silence will be held to reflect on the sacrifice of those who fought in the war.
- At 3pm, we are invited to take to our doorsteps to raise a glass, cheer and clap during The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War Two. We are asked to say together: "To those who gave so much, we thank you."
- A pre-recorded speech by the Queen will be broadcast at 9pm, the very moment her father, King George VI, addressed the people over radio on May 8 1945.

Whatever you are going to do and however you are going to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War 2, do it safely. Please email to school photos of your celebrations—it will be lovely for you to share them with us. God bless and keep safe, Mrs Stacey,

A message from all the staff at WCPS.

“To all our wonderful children and families, just because we can't see you doesn't mean we aren't thinking of you. We hope you are all well. We miss you all dearly.” *This was the photo message we hope you received last Friday. Like you all, it was lovely for me to see staff member's photos and to see their artistic talents! If you have not seen the message from the staff please look at the school website on the latest news page. Thank you Miss Figueredo for organising the photo message.*

Updated guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings

The guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings has been updated with additional information on the Friday 8 May Bank Holiday and updates educational resources available to parents to help them educate their children at home.

The guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>



Schools have been asked to emphasise the importance of a safe online environment and encourage parents and carers to set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites. These are usually free, but often need to be turned on.

Please use these resources to keep your children safe online:

[Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online

[Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations

[Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support

[Internet matters](#) provides age-specific online safety checklists, guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, and a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world

[London Grid for Learning](#) has support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online, including tips to keep primary aged children safe online

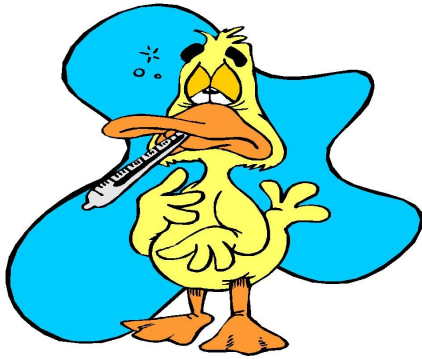
[Net-aware](#) has support for parents and carers from the NSPCC, including a guide to social networks, apps and games

[Let's Talk About It](#) has advice for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has tips, advice, guides and other resources to help keep children safe online, including parental controls offered by home internet providers and safety tools on social networks and other online services

Free School Meal voucher schemes.

For those of you who receive the free school meal vouchers, you should have received an email informing you that following the DFE guidance we have changed the supplier of the vouchers from Wonde to Edenred. You should receive another two weeks worth of vouchers this coming week. Please let us know if you have any difficulty in receiving, accessing or being able to use your vouchers. As a school, we place the order and then trust the company we are using to provide vouchers to complete the order. The only way we know there are problems arising is by you informing us, so please let us know.



Advice for parents during coronavirus:

Children can get coronavirus (COVID-19), but they seem to get it less often than adults and it is usually less serious. Parents/carers should be reminded that if a child is unwell it may be a non-coronavirus illness, rather than coronavirus itself.

What to do if your child has symptoms of coronavirus

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

a high temperature

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours

Call 111 If your child has these symptoms.

What to do if your child seems very unwell

Children and babies will still get illnesses that can make them very unwell quickly. It is important to get medical help if you need it. The NHS 111, GPs and hospitals are still providing the same safe care that they have always done. Please call 111 or your GP Surgery if you need to. It is extremely important to follow Government advice to stay at home during this period.