

Westminster Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Founded by The Jesuit Fathers Circa 1849



Newsletter

Monday 11th May 2020

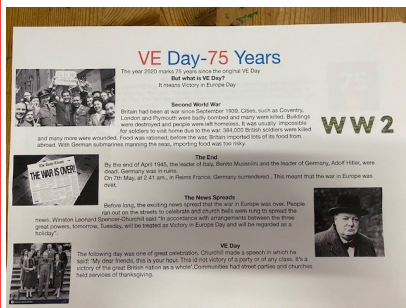
'Love one another as I have loved you'

John 13:34

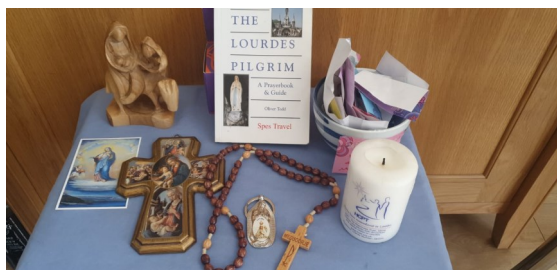
Dear parents and friends,

Happy VE Day.

Were you able to celebrate VE Day last Friday? We had a 'lock-down' celebration at home, thankfully the weather helped. We decorated our garden with home made bunting, we played a few games and had a call with my parents. My mother showed us the medals and log books which belonged to her father, my grandfather. My grandfather was in the RAF during World War 2 and my mother showed us his handwritten entry for 8th May 1945.



It looks as though other families also celebrated VE day. Thank you to those who have sent photographs in—please keep them coming in.



May the month of Mary.

In last week's newsletter I directed you to power points and resources on our school website in the 'Church and Community' page. This week I have added a Beatitudes Powerpoint. I also said that we would have had fresh flowers surrounding our beautiful statue of Mary and I

know some of the home learning is creating a May altar at home. Here is a photograph of our home learning.

Along with this week's newsletter I have attached:

1. This week's Wednesday Word
2. A guide to how to say the Rosary. God Bless you all and stay safe. Mrs Stacey

Government announcement

Following the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday evening and the release of further information last night from the Department for Education, we are beginning to read and interpret the advice.

We appreciate the possible anxiety around the details of the Government's 'road map' to begin to remove the country from lockdown, especially in relation to children and young people returning to school. We have heard the announcement at the same time as you, on Sunday evening, so we will need to take time to understand and unpick the details included in the Government's guidance. We will work out how opening our school to Year R, 1 and 6 children can be achieved safely as more details of the Government's proposals emerge. We will keep you updated as we know more.

However, in the interim period, please be assured that whatever happens every decision will take into account our absolute priority, which is the health and safety of our children, their families and our staff. We will not be rushing to make decisions that we later regret, so please bear with us while we take stock of the information as it emerges.

For the rest of this half term, our school remains open as it has in recent weeks - only for the children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable. We will continue to be providing free school meal vouchers for those who are eligible,

1. In our 'wider opening' planning, we will consider the needs and entitlements of our children in equal measure to the needs and entitlements of our staff;
2. We will continue to manage the many and complex risks as best as we possibly can;
3. We will continue to use advice from the UK's Government, DFE, scientific and medical leaders to inform all of our immediate and medium-term planning;
4. Schools will remain as they are until we can ensure that we have sufficient staff in school to keep your children safe;
5. Schools will remain as they are until there is clearer direction from the Government with regards to social distancing and other Covid-19-related guidance for schools. This will also determine who is to attend school and on which day, each week;

At this stage, please be reassured that we are aware of the importance of accurate information before decisions are made and, subsequently, communicated with you. We do not wish to add to your burden at this time but we are conscious of the worry to your wider families if children and students return to school too quickly. In the meantime, the home learning will continue. We look forward to seeing children back at school but only when the time is right and it is safe. Thank you for your continued support.



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

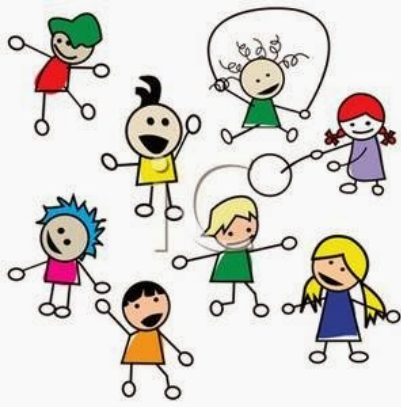


Children's use of mobile phones.

I am sure over the past couple of weeks your child is making more use of their mobile phone and I know many children are using your phones to access their home learning. **Please be aware that smart phones that access the internet should be monitored closely by you.** It is recommended that children do not have mobile phones with them

when they go to bed. This is a safeguarding matter to protect them but also the 'blue light' can affect sleep patterns. Please be vigilant when your child accesses the internet via a phone/ tablet and monitor their use of social media.

Please be aware of the communication your child is having with others outside of your home. Thank you.



The NHS has just released some advice in regards to keeping up-to-date with your child's vaccinations.

In light of Covid-19 it is highly recommended that you keep up-to-date with your child's vaccinations (unless your child or a member of your family have developed coronavirus symptoms).

Though we are living in unsettling times, it is vital to keep up-to-date with these vaccinations and protect children against other, preventable, diseases. You would usually be contacted by your GP surgery when your child is due for a routine vaccination. Please contact your surgery or walk in clinic who can help answer any questions you may have about attending appointments during coronavirus.

To find out more: <http://nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations>



HELP WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL HELP THE HOMELESS

One of the charities the school supports is The Passage which is a Roman Catholic homeless charity based near to Westminster Cathedral. During the Covid 19 crisis The Passage has been tasked with providing meals every day for homeless people currently housed in emergency accommodation in local budget hotels. To help fund this work for the next 10 weeks **The Passage need to raise £300,000 from charitable giving. We are asking if you would consider helping to support their work by donating the £10 cost of a day's meal package for a homeless person.** You can do this very easily by visiting the link below:

<https://passage.org.uk/get-involved/dinner/>

Thank you for considering this request. We know that it would really help the work of this great charity if you could afford to donate.