



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 4th April 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MISS CHOMA

Dear All, I think it is important to keep the weekly newsletter going during term time to keep a link to life in school and home. During the Easter break, school remains open for the children of key workers. Thank you to those staff who are fit and well and do not have any vulnerable family members, for their incredible work over the past two weeks. They have managed to remain cheerful and look after a handful of children each day. Thank you to those parents who took note of the Prime Ministers speech and are only using school if there is no other option.

Well done to the children who have adapted wonderfully to the new situation: being kept 2 metres apart; staff washing the equipment; children washing their hands often, and as always, being a ray of sunshine. For those children working at home - a big well done and keep up the hard work. I am checking your MyMaths and Active Learn accounts!

From Monday, we will be moving to a hub at St Joseph's - a letter has been emailed to explain how this will work for the children attending. The staff at St Joseph's will continue to support the magnificent effort being made by the key workers within our community.

Please keep safe and I would like to wish you all a healthy and happy Easter. God Bless

SAFEGUARDING

Please speak with to your child(ren) about their online activity and remind young people of their digital citizenship responsibilities and to look after themselves and others. The DfE published some up to date guidance for parents in relation to current circumstances. Find the full document by following the link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

6.3 Where can I go to get support to help keep my child safe online?

There is a lot of support available to keep your child safe online. Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)



HOME LEARNING

We hope all of you are well and that you are enjoying your time at home. Well done to all of you who have been busy doing: Times Tables Rockstars, MyMaths, ActiveLearn, PE with Joe Wicks or your weekly learning projects. We're really proud of you and look forward to seeing all your projects soon. If you have any work that you're really proud of, maybe you could take a photo of it and email to school so we can see your amazing work—please email homelearning@stjosephsotley.org

We noticed that some of you were running low on books on ActiveLearn so we have allocated some more for you. If you have completed all the books, we have allocated everyone some grammar and spelling games on ActiveLearn which hopefully you'll enjoy (we know you love grammar and spellings!).

If you have not managed to access the online resources or require passwords, then please do not hesitate to email Miss Wilkinson (office@stjosephsotley.org).



EASTER BLESSINGS

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very holy and happy Easter. You are all in our prayers. Although it will be a very different Easter this year, we pray that you and your families will all be kept safe and that you will enjoy spending time together at home.

RESOURCES FOR EASTER WORSHIP

As we are unable to attend Church at the moment, we have put some links to some resources for worship at home on the Home Learning section of the website. As we enter Holy Week, we hope that you will be able to share the Easter story with your children at home.

There are also live Masses being streamed on the following sites:

- Leeds Cathedral: The Bishop's Mass will be livestreamed every Sunday at 11.00 am - <https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/live-streaming-of-mass-from-leeds-cathedral/>
- Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady: Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham is live-streaming every day during this extraordinary time starting at 8.30am with Morning prayer followed by Holy Mass at 9.30am and concluding with all night Exposition at 8.30pm - www.walsingham.org.uk
- Universities Chaplaincy at Notre Dame: Fr Marc Homsey is live streaming Mass from the universities chaplaincy at Notre Dame at the following times: Sunday at 5pm; Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 1:15pm; Wednesday at 5pm and Saturday at 11am—<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/9b9e6bbdf5f541eea9dad7f52b65f0e3>

RESOURCES FOR EASTER WORSHIP

To celebrate the "Year of the Word", we have asked the children to choose one of their favourite Bible stories and to make/find/draw objects to represent the story and then decorate a box or bag to put the objects in.

There is more information on this on the Home Learning Page on the school website.

Here is a photo of one that has already been created.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

As part of our Easter preparations, we were planning on each class taking part in a Stations of the Cross Service led by Year 6 around the school field. As we are unable to do this, maybe families would like to hold their own "Stations of the Cross" service around their gardens or homes. A good time to do this would be 3pm on Good Friday when we would normally be at Church remembering Jesus' Crucifixion.

The children could choose some of the Stations that they would like to focus on and maybe draw a picture to represent them and/or write a prayer. Or perhaps as a family, you could make a small cross to carry around. If you get the opportunity to do this, please send us any photos as it would be really special to see your worship.

For those Year 6 children who are working towards their Faith in Action Award, this could be used as evidence for the Pilgrimage and Procession section.



PRAYER FOR EASTER

May the glory
and the promise
of this special time of year
bring peace
and happiness to you
and those you hold most dear.
May Christ,
Our Risen Saviour,
be there by your side
to bless you
and keep you safe in these difficult times. Amen

A prayer for the world:

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines
to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you
and keep us safe.
Amen.