



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 3TF
Tel: (01707 324408)

Email: admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry
Deputy Headteacher: Mr. D. Abrahams

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had a wonderful time at Easter with your families. We were blessed with wonderful weather, which certainly has helped to lift everyone's spirits. Easter was, of course, very different this year with the churches being closed but we hope that you are enjoying the prayers and resources we send each week to help you explore the Gospel including <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/> The Easter message calls us to show our faith in an active way and this can be done by helping others at this challenging time (e.g. drawing a picture or writing a letter for someone that you know on your street or who is in a care home). In our assemblies, we have often spoken about each and every child '*letting their little light shine*' – and this would provide the children with the perfect opportunity of doing this. In addition, the Wednesday Word will continue to be provided to families via the class pages of the school website each week.

What is clear, from all the messages that we have received from families over the past few weeks, is that we are still all part of one incredibly strong school community! We are trying to keep in contact with you as much as we can and our website and social media platforms are full of news, links and ideas, including our Twitter feed @OurLadySchWGC! Many of you will have been exploring new ideas and interests and we would love to hear about these. Please feel free to send pictures so that we can share them and keep in touch. Our Twitter account has also been an excellent source of shared resources recently, so do follow the school account as we often re-tweet learning opportunities as they arise.

Home Learning:

As we begin our new term in a very different way, I am writing to provide you with information which will help you to structure your child's learning each week. However, please remember that now is the time for your child to explore something that interests them in their own way and develop their skills as independent learners. This is a time to be really creative - even with the recommended hour of Maths and English! Learning doesn't only happen sitting at a desk or always involve writing; sometimes the best learning just happens unplanned when we take the time to enjoy and make the most of whatever we are doing. Think of your child's learning as a great, adventurous journey which can take them to new places. There are lots of ideas that I have included on Page 3 of this letter, there are numerous links on the class pages of the website and I have also attached a further list of subject based website links for your child to explore - but please do not try and visit them all at once!

Please remember that some days you may just go with the flow, following your child's lead, rather than following the tasks the teacher has set and this is completely fine! There may even be days when nothing particularly gets done because your children need some down time (as may you!) – do not worry!!! This is perfectly natural! A positive mental health and wellbeing for ALL is key! There

is no statutory duty that you must complete the work that is set – so please be assured that anything positive that you do now will assist your child's development and that our children are resilient learners who, with the care of their parents and the professional help of a talented staff team, will succeed as long as we do not create unnecessary stress, pressure or obstacles now. We are all in this together as are children and families across the country!

When the new term starts next week, class teachers will be structuring learning each day for parents by uploading a learning schedule for that week on the class pages of the school website. This schedule will include planned activities for each day. The activities will generally follow the structure of a school day and teachers will be sharing links and resources for parents to use to support their child's learning. We are hoping that this information will provide some reassurance and clarity for parents in how best to support their child. This will continue each week (on a Monday morning) for the rest of the time that the school remains closed to our families.

The planned weekly activities will include:

- One daily English lesson
- One daily Maths lesson (from the White Rose Maths Home Learning website). This includes a video lesson, an interactive task and an answer sheet for each day of the week
- Daily 30 minute PE workout (using the Joe Wicks sessions on YouTube)
- Two RE lessons, a Science lesson, an Art/DT lesson and a lesson based on the class' current topic.

Spellings will also be provided every Wednesday for children to learn and be tested on in the following week. Please also remember to encourage your child to read (to an adult if possible) for 20 minutes a day.

In our EYFS, Mrs Ferrin will be uploading the week's activities onto Tapestry. There will be a daily Phonics activity, a weekly Literacy activity (based on the topic the class are studying) and one weekly Maths activity. This follows the same structure that the class would follow in normal circumstances. If you could document your child completing these activities on Tapestry, it would be very much appreciated by the EYFS team. Thank you for your support.

We have tried to vary the planned activities so that there are lots of creative, physical and/or research learning opportunities that do not always necessarily involve a using PC, iPad, tablet or phone! Some tasks will be paper based, some will be online and some will be practical. This will help your child to receive a balanced learning programme. One of the other key things to consider, is to keep reading – try different authors or types of book and talk to your family about what each of you is reading.

If you have any questions about our new approach to home learning, please email the school office and we will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible. If you have any questions specific to individual classes, please mark the email for the attention of the class teacher (and include their name). You can also send us any examples of your work, which we would be delighted to share on Twitter and on Facebook!

Aim for some time each day where your child tries to work independently – they don't always have a member of staff learning alongside them in school! I would also suggest some time each day where your child directs what they are doing themselves – let them find a way into something interesting. It is important to remember that although the children from Year 1 upwards have about one hour of English and Maths each day, they also have lots of exercise and other creative opportunities – not all of their learning is desk bound or has a written outcome.

Thank you so much to everyone because we are all in this together with all the other children and families across the country. We are all playing our part and helping those very important workers by doing what the government has asked us to do and life **WILL** soon return to “normal”!

May God bless you and all of your families. Keep safe, keep happy and keep well!

Richard Curry

FURTHER IDEAS TO HELP....

In Nursery and Reception (EYFS), your children should be spending the majority of their time playing and actively exploring the world around them, being creative and thinking independently. Share and enjoy stories, songs and rhymes with them – cook, mark-make, dig and play. You may want to spend some time on Phonics Play (www.phonicsplay.co.uk) supporting early reading skills. A little time each day practising letter formation with simple words would also be useful as would some simple maths. There is a daily maths task on the White Rose Website (<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>) which might help to get the focus right.

In Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) being creative, artistic, musical and explorative remain important skills. Our learning in Years 1 and 2 is not completely desk based and still encourages a beautiful exploration of the living, cultural and natural world around them. Colouring, building and cutting activities will still be key as they improve hand control for handwriting and letter formation. Reading stories together and talking about them will be of great benefit each day. Again there is an appropriate daily maths task on the White Rose Website (<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>) and this allows for practise of key skills. A little writing each day of sentences to do with things that interest them would be useful in order to keep skills sharp. Most children love to make posters, booklets, leaflets, lists, letters & quizzes – any opportunity to write will be a positive one if you encourage it!

In Key Stage 2, sustaining reading habits and talking about what they have read will be important each day. We also suggest that if you are able to, make use of the daily White Rose Maths tasks (<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>) with their useful videos, practice tasks and explanations. Maybe your child could engage with a longer written task or use their reading and writing to research something that really interests them. Remember, writing isn't just about stories – children love to explore instructions, biography, historical reports, explanations, song writing and poems – use ANY opportunity that you can to get them writing!

