



NEWSLETTER

AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

15th May 2020 No. 14

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*Our Virtues and Values for this term are
"Truthful and Eloquent"*

Message from Miss Moriani

There have been so many changes in all our lives over the last few months; on the 20th March 2020 we closed our school gates to all but a handful of key worker's children, on the 1st April 2020 we officially became part of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Academy Company (MAC), families and friends have found new ways to pass time together, communicate with loved ones without meeting and life has taken on a different pace.

Within school we are all safe and well and coming to grips with new technology and ways of working both with colleagues, the MAC and to set home learning tasks. A highlight of these strange times for myself and the staff has been an opportunity to now be able to see some of the amazing work that you have been doing, which you have been sending in via the class email links. This connection with you and the children has brightened our day and kept us going. Please keep sending it in.

However, we recognise that home schooling is a choice, and how you plan for it and the activities you do with your children must be right for you and them. Teaching is a social process. We have been given unprecedented opportunity to spend time with our families and particularly our children. This is a great opportunity to allow them to be children so let's take it: make mud pies, cook, play in the garden, wear silly costumes, build things and dance like no-one is watching. We would love you to share those things with us too. The teachers have put things on the class pages as suggestions; a bit of reading every day (independent or reading to them or audio books etc.), some free writing now and then and a little maths work. Fine motor work such as Lego, playdough, drawing, painting and tidying up small toys, alongside gross motor skills trampolining, running, jumping, riding a bike are equally important. These things will all stand them in good stead when school re-opens.

I am sure that following the Prime Minister's statement on Sunday evening, you will be aware of proposed plans to begin re-opening schools starting with Reception and Year 1. Over the coming weeks we will be getting further guidance and clarification from the Department of Education to support us with planning a phased re-opening of the school. As always, our key priority is the safety of pupils, staff and parents at St Thomas More and no decisions will be made until we have sufficient information and guidance. We will keep you updated with details about what this may look like. At present I am asking parents in those year groups to indicate if they are intending for their child to return to school on 1st June 2020.

At present there is no change to guidance around the care of children of key workers and we remain open to care for those who cannot be safely cared for at home. We will also continue to provide online learning resources and remain on hand in school via phone and email for any queries and concerns.

The latest message 'Stay Alert' reminded me of the key message that runs through the Bible.

Mark 13:33 Be on guard! Be **alert!** You do not know when that time will come.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be **alert** and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Luke 21:36 Be **alert** at all times. Pray so that you have the power to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand in front of the Son of Man.



As Catholics we should always be alert, always looking for opportunities to be the hands and feet of our Lord. In times of difficulty we see humanity at its best, the courageous frontline workers who are working tirelessly to care for and comfort the sick, other critical key workers who have kept the country going cleaning, delivering and serving. We have seen people collecting and delivering food to individuals and charities, Captain Tom Moore and

countless others who have raised funds. I know that within our own community of St Thomas More so very many of you will have also been active, supporting family, friends and neighbours by giving in different ways through small acts of kindness and prayer.

At this time so many may feel vulnerable, isolated and alone but we should remember we are never alone. Our God is with us each and every moment, especially in those dark times. The power of prayer is strong and unites us with God and with one another. During the month of May many of us have been rediscovering the beauty of praying the rosary at home, on our own or with family. We are currently putting together videos of the children saying the rosary to enable us to engage on this as a community level, as our churches are still closed. If you haven't sent in a video of your child/children saying the Hail Mary, please do so. They are a real reminder of how special our children are and the importance of prayer.

You remain in our thoughts and prayers and with that I leave you with the following prayer.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light;

Through Him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Keeping in Touch Staff Video

The staff have put together a video of all the things they have been doing while keeping safe. Please check it out on our school webpage or Facebook and send in your photos of the activities that have kept you going (e-mail: office@st-thomasmore.worcs.sch.uk).

Mrs Yeomans Leaving

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs Yeomans at the end of May. As many of you know, she got married last summer and in light of recent events is taking a break from teaching in order to start a family. We wish her every happiness.

First Holy Communion

As a result of the lockdown on both Schools and churches we have been unable to complete the preparatory programme for our pupils undertaking First Holy Communion.

In discussion with the Parish Priest and other first schools in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Company, we are now able to confirm that the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will not take place this academic year.

It is unclear at this time if they will be held in the autumn or spring term next year or in the summer along with the next cohort of pupils.

Bereavement

We know that some of you may have lost loved ones including those relating to the coronavirus. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.



Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic Multi-Academy