

# St Joseph's Journal



8TH JANUARY 2021

## **Happy New Year**

It feels slightly unconvincing wishing everyone a happy new year with all that has happened this week but as a school family, we look at the long term goals of being on the other side of this pandemic and look forward to a time where we can be truly together as a family again.

We hope you have all had opportunities to enjoy Christmas, albeit in very different ways this year and hope that you and your family stay healthy and safe this year.

Pope Francis is soon to launch a year long reflection on family and in his homily on the feast of The Holy Family, he explained, *'Through the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit; it must be founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope.'* We pray that through the challenges we continue to face that we can turn to one another as family, for love, support and understanding.



## **Introducing Google Classroom to our Parents**

Our digital platform is called Google Classroom. This is an app that is easily accessible on many different types of device in order for our pupils to be able to watch live and recorded lessons from their own teachers as well as access many other essential resources. Once logged in with the pupils own log in details (stuck in the front of their Remote Learning exercise book) pupils will see the tasks that have been set for them as well as details of any live lessons for that day.

In addition to pupils learning we would also like to use this platform as a safe space for the children to be able to interact with one another at certain times in the week, where an adult will be supervising the session and we are speaking with the children about the protocols around this.

## **Remote Learning**

As I am sure you are now all aware, with the closure of school has come the expectation that children will continue to access lessons and learn remotely during this time. School have to follow the expectations on them to provide high quality remote lessons, where pupils can still receive frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high quality curriculum resources or videos. To that end we have made a commitment to provide 3 x 1hr lessons daily and each child will receive 1:1 tuition with their teacher each week. In addition to these fixed, focused opportunities to learn, pupils will also have access to many beneficial resources to improve reading, writing and maths skills as well as promote areas of the wider curriculum in more detail. We are also very mindful of our pupils' mental health and wellbeing and this will form part of the discussions that take place each week with our pupils and resources will be shared to promote this essential area too.

We appreciate the stress and anxiety that the remote learning may also cause to parents and want to reassure you that we have not gone anywhere and are very much here to support you in any ways we can. Each of the documents to support parents with accessing and trouble shooting issues around remote learning are now on our home page of the school website. These include:

- How to install Google Classroom on a new device (Remote Learning Expectations Letter)
- Our Google Meet Protocols
- Our Remote Learning Policy





**Acorns** Zuzanna: Challenging herself with difficult things

**Beech** Mason : working so hard in all his lessons

**Cedar** Damian: Super work about the Christmas holiday

**Elm** Ella Mai: Enthusiasm and focus during remote learning

**Larch** Ethan L Brilliant work on Times Tables Rockstars

**Oak** Sally for all round effort



**Acorns** : Jacob Stansfield for adapting so well online

**Beech** Scarlett : her excellent attitude to remote learning

**Cedar** Tobiasz: Finding his big voice and trying really hard

**Elm** Poppy: Joining in so well with maths from home

**Larch** Aiden: Persevering to get on with remote learning

**Oak** Phoenix for her excellent poster in R E



### **Thank you Morrisons!!!**

We are so grateful to Morrisons for being so quick to respond to the situation we found ourselves in on Monday evening this week.

Morrisons have kindly donated provisions to support the school including additional ingredients that the school needed to find at short notice to make up the packed lunches for children who are on Free School Meals but now learning from home. In addition to this, Morrisons have also supplied provision for the kitchen and for snacks for the children who are still required to be in school. It has been one less pressure and worry for us to think about and is also enabling many families to collect a nutritious lunch each day.

### **Feast of the Epiphany**



On Wednesday our pupils in school were able to celebrate mass virtually with Father Peter for the Feast of the Epiphany. Father explained to the children the significance of 'the revealing' of Jesus, the Son of God, to the world and how the arrival of the Three Wise Men was a sign that Jesus came to earth to save all nations, all people. The children were very knowledgeable about the significance of the gifts brought by the three wise men and how they each represented a sign to the world as well. If during this time, you would also like to attend virtual masses there is a secure channel called **Churchservices.tv** which can be easily accessed through any search engine.

### **Covid -19 update**

The whole of the country is now under **national lockdown** and as a result we are all being asked to play our part and reduce the strain on the NHS. At the current time we must not leave our homes unless for the following reasons:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible.