



Thursday 23rd April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Today is St George's Day, the patron saint of England. We would normally be celebrating a lovely Mass together. It is funny to think that the last time we gathered together as a whole school was for Mass on St Patrick's Day, just a few days before the schools closed and we went into lockdown. I hope that when all this finishes I will be more appreciative of these special occasions and how lucky we are to be next to the Church. It is true what they say, you don't really miss something until it's gone!

I had many lovely comments from parents, staff and governors about last week's Thought for the Day so thought it would be nice to keep it as a weekly feature. It has been lovely to hear from parents and I'm glad you are all doing well and keeping safe. We are trying to increase our communication with you and the children and over the coming weeks class teachers will be trying to have a chat with every child in their class.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Today is also the day on which William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and the day he died in 1616 aged just 52. In the 16th century this was considered to be old.

In his play Richard II, Shakespeare has one of his characters say:

"I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends."

Each of us can think of a few individuals who have improved the quality of our lives, of whom we consider to be good friends.

In Shakespeare's play, King Henry VI the king says:

"O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness."

Let us pray

Lord, as you lend me life, lend me a heart full of thankfulness, that I may treasure good friends and be appreciative of all who are part of my life.

Inspire me each day to live positively and cheerfully, living in such a way that I express thanks and encouragement to others, so that, together, we may bring out the best in each other.

Amen

Never has there been a more appropriate time to reflect on what we have and what we miss. At this time of separation from our family and friends let us give thanks for what we have been given, for the friends we are missing, and may we, when this is all over, never forget how fragile our way of life is and how every moment and every person is to be treasured and appreciated.

The Pope's Message – Earth Day 22.04.20 courtesy of Robin Gomes, Vatican News

Holding his weekly general audience on the 50th Earth Day on Wednesday, Pope Francis called for common action and ecological conversion that lead to a deeper love for our common home and our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable.

The Pope writes;

“Dear Brothers and Sisters: Today marks the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day. This is an opportunity for renewing our commitment to caring for our common home. We are called to cherish creation and all life within it, for the natural world is the “Gospel of Creation”, not a set of resources for us to exploit. To overcome our selfishness and rediscover a sacred respect for the earth, we need a new way of seeing – an ecological conversion – for the earth is also God’s home and we stand on holy ground. We can only be authentic custodians of the earth, and overcome the challenges before us – such as the coronavirus pandemic – by acting in solidarity with one another. As the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si’ reminds us, we are one interdependent human family and so need a common response to the threats we face (cf. 164). In this Easter season of renewal, as we strive to love more deeply our common home and all our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need, let us implore our Heavenly Father: “Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth” (cf. Ps 104:30).”

Celebrating the 50th Earth Day on Tuesday, Pope Francis pointed out that the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us that we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst.

Please find below links to the TenTen resources.

Below is a Power Point to an Assembly that you may wish to watch together for next week - 27th April

https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/assemblies/assembly-2020-04-27/2020_04_27_assembly_for_home/

This link will bring you to a liturgy to share on Sunday 26th April

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/sunday-liturgy-for-families/>

Here are the daily prayers to say together – week beginning 27th April

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/daily-prayers-for-home/>

You can also sign up at CAFOD to take part in their weekly Interactive Sunday Liturgy. I have not seen them myself but I have it on very good authority that they are fun with lots of singing.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

KEEPING FIT

I hope you are all managing to fit some exercise into your routine. At school we use ‘Get Set 4 Tennis’ to teach tennis to some of the pupils. They have uploaded some videos to help develop your techniques.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHKYEm3letJHwhrGn-0dfWA>

These do come with a health warning! As these are all done inside they may lead to damage to walls and ornaments!

“I have three brothers and when we were young my mum had to work in the evenings and we were left in the care of my older sisters. Every time we played with a ball we managed to knock an ornament off the mantelpiece. These were not particularly precious but mum didn’t have many things. I became an expert at gluing legs back on to ornamental horses, well enough so that she didn’t notice. Or if she did she never said!”

SCHOOLS REOPENING

There has been much speculation in the media about when schools will be re-opening. This is all just speculation and is very unhelpful especially to children and young people who are at home and keen to get back into school. Schools have had no directives about re-opening and much will need to be put in place before this happens.

Schools were not informed of the school closures until this was announced by the Prime Minister, on the news, two days before he closed schools. We are hoping that we will get guidance on when and how to re-open but, as with the closures, we will probably hear this on the news too. We will endeavour to keep you updated of any plans to re-open schools but I fear this will not be for some time yet.

HOME LEARNING

Thank you to all those parents who have signed up for ClassDojo. As I mentioned last week this is optional. The same learning will continue to be uploaded onto the website although ClassDojo should enable us to make some of the learning more personalised to some children. We endeavour to have the learning ready for Monday at 9am but due to the Easter Holidays this was not possible this week. We should however, have it all ready for you by 9am next Monday.

A few parents have shared that they have limited or no access to ICT facilities. We understand that this can be difficult and would recommend that you encourage your children to read where possible and do additional art and craft activities if you have the resources to do this. Most children were given text books to take home. Continue to work through these also. If you are really struggling please contact the school and we will see what we can do to help. Unfortunately we have no laptops and the government scheme is directed at year 10 students only.

Teachers will be sending invitations to parents who have given their consent to sign up to ClassDojo. These will be sent over the next two days via email. You will receive a pin number which will give you access to your child's page only. No one else will be able to see this and children will not be able to see each other's work. This is a new site to us so we are experimenting at the moment. We appreciate any feedback you can give us once it is up and running (after about a week).

Your child will be able to log onto their page to see the weekly timetable of activities and will be given instructions for two activities a day which they will be asked to produce a piece of work for. All instructions will be provided.

There will be a wide range of other activities but these are the only two that require your child to share the outcome with the class teacher. Any comments made will be seen by your child only.

If you have chosen not to use ClassDojo but would like to share some work with your class teacher please send it to admin@olovrc.com and it will be directed to your class teacher.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Emails continue to be monitored. The office is now open from 10am to 3pm on Monday and Friday for urgent enquiries or if you need support. I will be available to speak with you during these times. If you have a concern that we cannot help you with directly we will be able to put you in touch with someone who can.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Please see below the link to the 'Think you Know' website which gives advice on how to stay safe when using a phone, tablet or computer. These are child friendly activities.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Today we have emailed a checklist to help you keep your children safe whilst online. We will continue to provide information when we receive it.

May God keep you safe from harm today and always!

Best wishes



Miss K. Coll / Headteacher



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
LONDON

