



Thursday 7th May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

My word for the week is SPECULATION. There is much speculation in the media about reviewing the lockdown and re-opening schools. Please be assured that as soon as I know anything about the next steps in this situation I will let you know. Although the government is in discussions with the teaching unions it has not seen fit to consult or inform schools of the possible next steps. We are as much in the dark as you are.

I have no idea if they will re-open schools, when they might do this, if this will be a full or partial re-opening and what a phased return could possibly look like. Their plan is that we will be informed of their decision making along with the rest of the country, during the Prime Minister briefing on Sunday evening. Once we know what the expectations are from the government we will be able to assess the risks to ensure the health and safety of staff, pupils and parents/carers and formulate a plan. You will be advised of this as soon as possible following Sunday's announcement.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

One of the world's greatest musicians, Ludwig van Beethoven, began to lose his hearing when he was only 26. This was particularly tragic for someone so gifted in using sound as music. When he realised he could not be cured of his deafness, he wrote the following prayer. As we hear his words, we can pray for those who are going through difficulties at this time:

Let us pray

O God, give me strength to be victorious over myself.
O guide my spirit and raise me up from these dark depths so that
I may fearlessly struggle upward in fiery flight.
For it is you alone, Lord, who understands me and can inspire me

Amen

Part of Beethoven's 9th symphony (which is called the Choral) has become the Anthem of today's European Union. When this symphony was first performed in Vienna on this day in 1824, Beethoven was completely deaf. During the performance he faced the orchestra and, before each of the four parts of the music he beat the speed to let the conductor know how fast the music should be played. In his last years, his only experience of his own music was not through hearing, but through watching the musicians, imagining what they were playing.

At the end of this symphony, the audience stood and applauded enthusiastically, but Beethoven could not hear them; someone turned him round to face the audience so that he could see their appreciation of his music.

Beethoven's last words before dying are said to have been; "*I will hear in heaven.*"

Let us have the strength of Beethoven and his unwavering faith in God's love.

Please find below links to the TenTen resources. These are resources that we use in school. The children are familiar with them and like them.

Sunday Liturgy for Families – <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/sunday-liturgy-for-families/> This link will also bring you to the **Daily Prayers for Home**

Assembly Video for Home - <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/assemblies/assembly-2020-05-11/>

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>

The Diocese are asking everyone to join them **every Friday at 10.30am to recite a decade of the Rosary**. The PowerPoint has been saved onto the school website in Parents' Information / Learning Zone / Religious Education.

The link to this Friday's YouTube Video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okLYzq2yE5g>

MUSIC

The following links have been shared by our music specialist Mrs Quiller-Wildman

This link will bring you to lots of activities to keep your musical mind busy

<https://padlet.com/richardjones97/musicwonderwall>

This link will bring you to YouTube activities to help the children from Year 3 – 6 with their recorder practice

[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89gV9fy67vl&list=PLg701W3Z2kroTp9g-d9FINGT6SI46qCq\]\(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89gV9fy67vl&list=PLg701W3Z2kroTp9g-d9FINGT6SI46qCq\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89gV9fy67vl&list=PLg701W3Z2kroTp9g-d9FINGT6SI46qCq)

LEARNING AT HOME

Once again I would like to remind you that the most important learning you can do with your children is to read with them and hear them read. Some children work at a different pace to others. Some families are finding that there is too much work set and others find that it is not enough. We are trying to cater for everyone in these very difficult times.

The learning set is to provide you with activities to do with your child or for your child to do independently where they can. We ask that, at a minimum, you complete the two activities in your child's portfolio if you are using ClassDojo and to pick at least two activities from your daily timetable if you are accessing the learning through the website. You may then choose as many of the other activities as you wish. This will be dependent on how motivated your child feels on a given day, how long it takes them to complete the learning and what is of interest to them. Please do not feel under pressure to complete everything. Be guided by your child and their capabilities.

Alternatively if you have sourced some of your own activities this is also OK but it is important that the children are doing some learning.

BANK HOLIDAY

With every day being very like the last one we completely lost track of the days and the Bank Holiday. Therefore we set learning activities for every day including the Bank Holiday. Please do not feel that you need to complete learning on this day. This was an oversight. Have a happy VE Day. I am sure you will find many different ways to celebrate the day.

FAMILIES IN NEED

More and more families are beginning to struggle financially the longer this situation goes on. There are a number of organisations locally who can support families by providing food. If you find yourself in difficult circumstances please send an email to admin@olovrc.com asking to speak with me. I will discuss your situation with you and will then be able to make a referral.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Emails continue to be monitored. The office is 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/>

May God keep you safe from harm today and always!

Best wishes



Miss K. Coll / Headteacher



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
LONDON

