



THE ST CHARLES' NEWSLETTER

Friday 20th March 2020

"Bring Forth Christ"



Determination Friendship Good Manners Respect Responsibility

LAST ONE FOR A WHILE!

I must admit, this week has been one of the strangest and most challenging weeks in my entire teaching career but I want to thank each and every member of staff (both in and out of school) who has worked incredibly hard to provide children in school with as 'normal' an experience as possible in these circumstances whilst helping me prepare for the coming weeks. They have also spent time preparing work for those children who are not in school to access as well, so a massive thank you from me. I would also like to thank all those parents who have spoken to me around school or sent messages of support (through e-mail, dojo and Facebook) as we try to find a way through this situation.

It can't be said enough that these truly are unprecedented times, especially when we were informed on Wednesday night by the Secretary of State for Education that *'After schools shut their gates on Friday afternoon, they will remain closed until further notice. That will be for all children except those of key workers and the children who are most vulnerable.'* Since this point, I've been working hard to put childcare provisions in place for those who fall into the above categories. Thank you to all those parents who have gone to extraordinary lengths to alleviate the pressure on school and provide childcare for their child/ren. Parents have managed to change shift patterns and requested to work from home to ensure that their children stay safe at home. The Government advice is:

'It is important to underline that schools, all childcare settings (including early years settings, childminders and providers of childcare for school-age children), colleges and other educational establishments, remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.'

I would ask that parents heed this advice and make every attempt possible to keep your child at home or, if possible, arrange alternative childcare with family and friends. Every additional child we have in school increases the pressure placed on staff members and our capacity to provide appropriate childcare. My priority over the coming days and weeks is looking out for the safety and welfare of my staff. Without them, our childcare service would not be able to operate and you would be required to source alternate provision at another provider in the area. **It is also important to note that the more children we have in school, the increased chance there is of this virus spreading.** Please could you spend time exploring every possibility, including speaking to your employers if you are not a key worker, to see what changes can be made to your working pattern to support and protect our true front line key workers during this global pandemic.

If your requirement for childcare arrangements changes, please contact me via dojo or send an e-mail to remotelearning@st-charles.lancs.sch.uk and I will try to be as flexible as I can in making the necessary arrangements.

Thank you, and please take every precaution you can to stay safe.
Mr Kennedy
Acting Head teacher

CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS FROM MONDAY

Thank you to those parents who returned the childcare request forms I distributed yesterday. I have gone through these forms and allocated places to the children of parents who I judged to have met the criteria. You should have received a notification email today from myself and we will also be creating a separate Dojo group to communicate any messages urgently if the need arises. These childcare arrangements are reliant on staff being fit and healthy to attend work and given the current situation, this might have to be extremely flexible with changes being made at the last minute. I will give you as much notice as possible in this situation.

Yesterday I announced that I wasn't going to be able to offer a before and after school club provision however, upon reflection, I realise that this might have knock-on effects for some of our parents working on the front line, especially those providing medical care and treatment in hospitals. Where possible, I would ask that parents make alternative arrangements for childcare before and after school, try to vary their working patterns or liaise with other key worker parents or those whose children aren't in school to facilitate this. However, if this isn't possible and a facility to drop your child/ren off earlier or later is required, please can you send a message through ClassDojo or an e-mail to remotelearning@st-charles.lancs.sch.uk and I can see if we can accommodate this request.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We have been contacted today by the LCC catering department to discuss the arrangements for children who are eligible for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals. At some point on Monday, we will receive packs of food for each of our children who fall under this category containing breakfast and lunch for 5 days. These should be able from noon on Monday. I will post on Facebook and ClassDojo! when these arrive in the school and the arrangements for collection. If you are unsure if your child falls under the Pupil Premium/Free School Meals category then please contact the school office or send a dojo message or e-mail to remotelearning@st-charles.lancs.sch.uk

USEFUL RESOURCES MOVING FORWARD

Thank you to those have requested printed copies of the packs of work I have e-mailed out. Hopefully you have received these now and they have been some use. Apologies for any delays in this – the photocopiers have been very busy. Over the coming days and weeks, we will be sharing more information about things that your child/ren can be doing at home. I will also be exploring the possibility of parents requesting new reading books for their child/ren by having a drop off/collection system in place. More details to follow.

For now, please find below some information/activity suggestions which might be useful in planning the days and weeks ahead.

- Create a timeline for the Easter story
- Draw/paint a picture of something related to Lent, Holy Week or the Easter story.
 - You could produce a picture of Jesus either in the desert or in the Garden of Gethsemane.
 - You may choose to use paint, coloured pencil, oil pastels or even produce a black and white sketch in pencil.
- Have a look at the Easter story on the following website or use the attached images:
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/easter/easterstory.aspx>
 - Can you retell the main events from the story in your own words, as a story-board/comic strip
 - Perhaps you could create a drama and ask an adult to take photos/videos
 - Could you log onto Purple Mash and create a newspaper article linked to one of the events.
- Write a Lent or Easter themed poem. Perhaps you could write a rhyming poem or maybe an acrostic poem? You could even decorate it!
- Write a letter or make a card for someone in your community who may not have any visitors over Easter. Ask an adult if you can send it in the post or, if safe to do so, post it through their door to wish them a Happy Easter and cheer them up!
- What are you doing during Lent? Think about the three key elements of PRAYER, FASTING AND GIVING. Keep a diary of what you do, or ask an adult to take a photograph of you.
- Make or decorate an Easter bonnet ready for the Easter day celebrations! Can you include any significant Easter symbols?
- Get creative and produce your own Easter Garden! You could use real plants/leaves/flowers (grass or cress maybe?), craft materials, play dough or maybe even something edible!

PE with Joe. Daily live workouts on his Youtube Channel – TheBodyCoachTV

Daily live drawing sessions with Steve Harpster. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHRHILY0t3i5VvKEeFMoJxw>
You can also access pre-recorded ones.

Make/read Bible stories in Lego

<http://www.thebricktestament.com/>

Make something different each day

<https://www.freehomeschooldeals.com/free-printable-30-day-lego-challenge-instant-download/>

<https://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/webcams/tiger-cam/#tigercam>

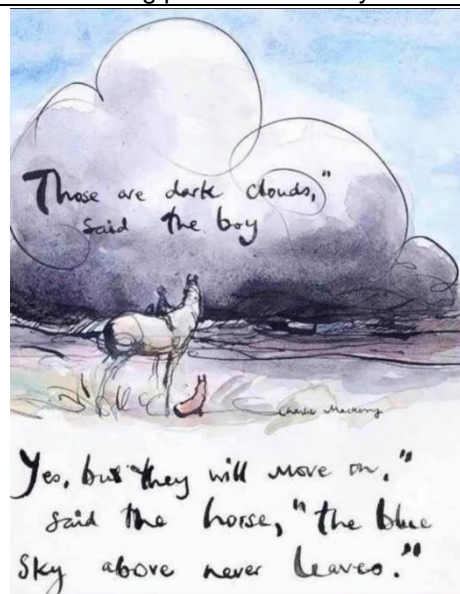
<https://www.virtualiteach.com/post/2017/08/20/10-amazing-virtual-museum-tours>

The Natural History Museum is brilliant

Videos on following Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

Make some written or videoed diaries of each day – this situation will be a big part of our history!



Stay safe everybody, Mr Kennedy