

Newsletter 03.07.2020

Dear Children, Parent and Carers,

Prayers for Leavers: Monsignor Timothy Menezes, the Dean of St Chad's Cathedral has kindly written a prayer especially for this Year's Y6 leavers. I have added it below for you to share with your children.

Year 6 Leavers

Loving and Caring God,
As I come to the end of my time at Primary School,
I reflect on the years since I began school.

Some of the building blocks of my life have happened here
without my even knowing it: reading and writing,
skills that will grow and that I will use throughout my life.

If I look back on my first days at school,
everybody else in the school seemed very big.
Now, I am at the top of the school and I don't feel quite so big!

But I am getting ready now to move on,
to new challenges, to a new sense of belonging, to a new identity.
As I do so, help me always to remember a phrase that can accompany me now and in the future: Do
this in Memory of Me!

Help me, Lord, to remember and not to forget:
that as a child of your family, at any age, I can pray and ask for your guidance;
that as a follower of yours, I can make a difference in the world by speaking the truth;
that as a member of the human family, I can act responsibly and lead others to do the same.

Bless all those who have been part of my journey so far:
my family
my friends
my teachers and all of the staff at my school.

Keep me in your care, Lord, throughout the summer. Keep me safe.
May every day of my life be an opportunity to give back to you the gratitude I have for the gift of life
you have given me.
Amen.

Important message about school closing early on Thursday 09th July instead of Friday 17th July due to rewiring of the school

A few weeks ago, I was informed that the school has been successful in bidding for some money to have the whole school rewired. **This means that the school will be closed to everyone, over the 6-weeks summer holidays** as contractors will need the whole of this time to complete the work. It will also mean we need **to close the school a week earlier** than was originally advertised, **which will mean closing on Thursday 09th July**, so it will be **closed for 7-weeks to all children, except to Key Worker Children**, as the staff need to prepare the school for the contractors to come in on Monday

20th July to start work straight away. **This decision has not been taken lightly, as the governors and I know our children have been out of school for too long already this academic year, but as we want to be able to reopen on Thursday 03rd September for all children, we feel it is better to close the school this term rather than coming back to school later in September.** Please except the Governors and my apologies for any inconvenience this will cause families, but the rewiring of the school is of the upmost importance to the health and safety of all children and staff working in the building.

To clarify:

- School will close for the summer holidays on Thursday 09th July for Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and Year 6 children.
- School will remain open from Monday 13th July to Thursday 16th July to Key Worker children and then will be closed from Friday 17th July for the summer holidays.

Academic Year 2020-2021

Below is a list of the term dates for next academic year. Please do make a note of these as all children will be expected to return to school in September on the first day of term.

School Term Dates 2020 – 2021

Autumn Term 2020	Spring Term 2021	Summer Term 2021
Tuesday 01 st September 2020 To Friday 23 rd October 2020	Monday 04 th January 2021 To Friday 12 th February 2021	Monday 19 th April 2021 To Friday 28 th May 2021
<u>HALF TERM</u>	<u>HALF TERM</u>	<u>HALF TERM</u>
Monday 02 nd November 2020 To Friday 18 th December 2020	Monday 22 nd February 2021 To Thursday 01 st April 2021	Monday 07 th June 2021 To Wednesday 21 st July 2021
<u>74 DAYS</u>	<u>59 Days</u>	<u>62 Days</u>

Total 195 Days

Teacher Days

Tuesday 01st September 2020
 Wednesday 02nd September 2020
 To Be Confirmed
 To Be Confirmed
 To Be Confirmed

Bank Holidays

Monday 03rd May 2021

School will reopen to children in Years 1 to 6 on Thursday 03rd September 2020

School will open to the new Reception children on Monday 07th September 2020

School Reports:

Next week, we will be issuing your children's school reports. This week, you will have received a message from school giving you a time and date when you can come to school and pick these up. Please do make sure, if you want your child's report before the summer holidays, that you come and collect them. Unfortunately, due to GDPR restrictions, **we cannot give other children's reports to adults who are not their parents**. If you do not come and collect your child's report in the time slot allocated, we will keep your child's report and give it to you when your child returns to school in September.

Any Year 6 children parents who cannot collect their child's report before the summer holidays begin, we will forward on in the post.

Class teachers for September

Below is which teachers and teaching assistants will be teaching which class next academic year. Please do share this information with your child/ren so they are prepared for when they return to school in September.

Reception - Mrs Caffrey and Mrs Smith

Year 1 – Mrs Shipman and Miss Dalziel

Year 2 – Mr Tooth, Miss Bonham and Miss Painting

Year 3 – Mrs West, Miss Mullen and Mrs Peplow

Year 4 – Miss Young and Mrs Dalziel

Year 5 – Mr Tobias and Miss Crane

Year 6 – Mr Caffrey and Mrs Koumi

Guidance for parents

This week the DfE updated the guidance on what parents and carers need to know about schools. Below is the link and the notice sent to schools.

We have updated the guidance on what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We have added content on summer provision, school uniform and a package of support worth £1 billion to support pupils to catch up. We have updated content on school meals and the Covid Summer Food Fund.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

They have also published their guidance on what parents and carers need to know about schools in the autumn term. The link to the guidance is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

What has been going on at school this week

Work has continued in the Library this week and we have found lots of new books that have been hidden around the school. From September their new home will be in the new library. Miss Price is getting very excited about the library – every time I've looked for her this week, I have found her in there surrounded by the ever-increasing number of books we seem to be finding!!

This week, the Reception children have been inspecting the bean plants they planted two weeks ago and measuring them. The children have been very excited about this especially because of how fast they seem to have grown. On Monday they also participated in the live streamed Mass for The Good Shepherd celebrated in St Chad's Cathedral by the Archbishop. A representative from Father Hudson's thanked everyone for their support and charity work this year.



Year 1 have been practicing sports day races this week as well as planting some broccoli. They are all really excited about watching them grow.



Year 5 and 6 have been identifying, estimating and drawing different angles this week. As you can see from the photograph, they have been doing some of this work in the school's playground.



The Key Worker Group have been experimenting this week. They have experimented with different densities of water by adding different amounts of sugar to water to create their own rainbows in glass.



Phone calls to the children from their teachers

Over the next 2-weeks the teachers will be making their final phone call home to the children in their class. Please do take this opportunity to let the teachers know if you have any concerns regarding your child or their home learning and they will try to support you in any way they can. Also please do let them know if you have limited access to the Internet and we will try and print off the summer learning packs for your child/ren if needed. Parents will need to be able to come to school to pick these up though if requested.

The information below has not changed from last week

Support available

If you have, any real worries or concerns or you need some support then please do contact the school and let us know. We have got staff (Mrs Pattinson, Mrs Carpenter and Jenny Ranson - our Family Support Worker) who can phone families and signpost them to support available in the local community. The school office is open from 08.30-4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Free@last
49 Nechells Park Road
Nechells,
Birmingham.
B7 5PR.

TEL: 0121 327 5959

They are open from 10am-12.00pm and offer lots of support and advice as well as working as a local food bank.

and

Call Nechells POD team on 07305 862 545 - Rachel Perks
28 Oliver street,
Nechells,
Birmingham.
B7 4NX.

They are offering a sign posting service and are a good contact for the local housing team if you are having any issues.

Guidance for Parents on Keeping child safe from abuse online

Last Friday, the DfE issued some guidance for parents on keeping children safe from abuse and harm. Below is the link and the notice sent to schools.

The DfE have jointly published new guidance with the Home Office, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and Public Health England on keeping children safe from abuse and harm. This guidance brings together sources of information about the main risks children may be vulnerable to during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and signposts you to help and support available.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-from-abuse-and-harm>

Summer Holidays Free School Meals Vouchers

As you are probably aware, the government announced recently that they will be providing Free School Meal Vouchers for parents who are in receipt of certain benefits and are entitled to Free School Meals for their children over the summer holidays this year. The current information we have been given regarding receiving the vouchers are as follows.

- **The week before the summer holidays begin or in the first week of the holidays you will receive a voucher to the value of £90 per child (this is a one-off payment, which covers the whole of the 6-weeks holiday).**
- Once you have redeemed the voucher you will be able to use this voucher multiple times until you have spent the whole value of the voucher.
- If you want to know how much money is left on the voucher you will be able to ask the shop your voucher is for and they will let you know how much is left on it.

If your child is currently attending school and the Free School Meals Vouchers have stopped being sent to you because your child is receiving a meal in school, then once we close for the summer you will receive the one-off voucher too. When we know more about the scheme, we will let you know.

Update regarding Collective Worship

The Government has now announced that places of worship are able to resume Collective acts of Worship from the 04th July. Please click on the link to see Cardinal Vincent Nicholl's response to this news:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinals-statement-on-resumption-of-collective-acts-of-worship/>

Updated handwashing advice

Updated handwashing advice has been published and it emphasises that it is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. It states that:

- Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain.
- Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus.
- Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

Mental Health and Well-being

Lockdown has been a particularly stressful time for many families, and we all need to be looking after ourselves during this time.

To support children's mental health and well-being across Birmingham, a new service has been set up called Kooth. **Kooth** is being provided now as a free, safe and anonymous service to support young people's emotional and mental health in Birmingham. Because young people have suddenly had exams cancelled, transition arrangements thrown up in the air and are dealing with the impact of COVID-19 on their loved ones this is important. The new service was successfully launched on Monday 13th April for young people from year 6, aged 11 up to 25. The full offer, including online self-referral can be accessed at [.www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

Kooth is linked into the wider mental health support from Forward Thinking Birmingham and offers:

- Online **mental health counselling** and **chat** services from midday to 10pm during the week, and 6pm to 10pm at weekends
- **Peer to peer support** through moderated discussion forums
- **Self-care tools and resources** to build resilience
- **Early response to and identification** of emotional wellbeing and mental health problems
- And there are **no waiting lists**, referrals or thresholds to access the service

Mental health support offer

A range of new, easily accessible mental health support is now available for patients in Birmingham and Solihull, based around four groups:

- 0-18 year olds in Birmingham
- 0-19 year olds in Solihull
- Over 18s in Birmingham and Solihull
- Key workers.

These services are provided by a range of local organisations, and offer emotional help, guidance and reassurance to people in Birmingham and Solihull who may be finding the current Coronavirus situation overwhelming. The web link will take you to the website and give you more information.

<https://www.birminghamandsolihullccg.nhs.uk/your-health/mental-health-support-offer>

Below is a link for transitioning your child back into school, which maybe helpful for all children to see:

<https://accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/transition-support-for-families-of-children-young-people-with-autism/>

Home Learning Packs:

Home learning packs for all year groups are still being added to the school website on a weekly basis. Please do ensure you check the 'Home learning' page on our website for these.

If your child or one or more of your children **are in Years 4, 5 and 6** please continue to encourage them to go onto Kidblog and do some of the work their teachers have been setting for them on there, as the teachers are able to see what work your children have done and support them with it.

Spiritual Communion:

The following website facilitates the live streaming of Mass. St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, Our Lady of Lourdes, Yardley Wood, Our Lady and St Brigid, Northfield, St Ambrose Barlow, Hall Green and St Edwards, Selly Park are some local churches where Mass can be viewed at various times.

<https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/>

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>

Some resources that are available for you to use as a family have been provided by the Archdiocese of Birmingham and some groups they work with, below is a list of these that you may want to look at:

- Weekly Worship and Song: can be found on the DES website page <https://www.bdes.org.uk/resources-for-prayer-and-learning.html>
- The Lay Chaplain at St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School, Birmingham is sharing daily Collective Worship and this is being uploaded at the start of every week <https://www.bdes.org.uk/shared-resources-from-diocesan-schools.html>
- Ten Ten Theatre Company are also providing free resources for:
Sunday Liturgies for Families at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/sunday-liturgy-for-families/>
Daily Prayer for Home at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/daily-prayers-for-home/>
15 Prayers During School Closure at: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/15-prayers>
- New prayer resources from Kenelm Youth Trust and ST John Fisher, Newcastle at: <https://www.bdes.org.uk/shared-resources-from-diocesan-schools.html>
- Kenelm Youth Trust have also put together a video series called 'How to Pray', which is released every Wednesday – you can find the links to it on all their social media channels and You Tube.
Instagram: @Soli_kyt
Facebook: solikyt
YouTube: <https://youtu.be/JEAvu7HuW7w>

Online resources:

Please do keep using the online resources made available from BBC Bitesize and the [Oak National academy](#) as they have online lessons for each year group up to Y10.

Both of these services feature online lessons which are updated on a weekly basis.

In both cases, there are weekly plans of lessons that children can access. These resources are available for you to use with your children, but please do check the resources beforehand to make sure you are happy with the content of them.

Staying Safe Online:

We know that children will be online more as we all stay in our homes. It is really important that we ensure our children are safe online too. Here are some resources which are particularly helpful.

Please check out the parental control section which gives advice to help parents put parental controls on any devices their children are using at home.

