



St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

Welcome to our final term

I hope you had a lovely Easter break and enjoyed the beautiful weather we have been blessed with over the last few weeks.

An unusual start to our final term as we will not be together for at least another 3 weeks as lockdown has been extended into May. In our final term we have many important events such as transitions and Sacraments and we are aware of the importance of these events to our children. We would like to reassure you that we will do our utmost to rearrange these events.

As guidance becomes clearer regarding the next few months, we will ensure you are kept informed through our usual channels of communication. Our school may be closed but we are still here, if you need to contact us please send an email to headteacher@st-josephs.e-renfrew.sch.uk or direct message us through our Twitter.

Stay safe and we will see you soon!

Mrs Martin
Head Teacher

Netherlee Hub provision

St Joseph's staff are currently providing a service at Netherlee Primary School for or parents who are key workers. The Head Teacher and staff of Netherlee Primary school have been very welcoming and the St Joseph's children attending the hub have been enjoying a different learning environment.

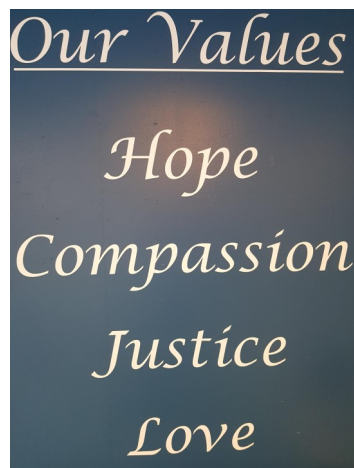
Thank you does not seem to cover the sacrifices being made by some of our parents who are dealing with this pandemic on a day to day basis through working for the NHS, food distribution, Care workers, emergency services and many others. We keep you all in our prayers. And of course a special thank you to all our St Joseph's staff who are looking after our children in the Netherlee hub.

Google Classroom

Well done to all our fantastic St Joseph's children who are skilfully navigating their new daily classroom. We have over 380 of our 407 children logging on every day! Our teachers are online every day from 9am to support our children with their learning so please feel free to message them for help or support if it is needed. This week some of our teachers have changed their Google Classroom slightly as it was becoming difficult for the children to see their work in the 'Stream'. Daily work and tasks are now being uploaded into the 'Classwork' section, there is a tab for this at the top of their Google Classroom page. In here you will find a list of subject areas down the left hand side and a weekly or daily task board, all work will be put in to the curricular areas and the task boards will direct the children as to what they have to do each day. This is very similar to how our normal classroom task boards work so the children are familiar with it.

Our children have demonstrated impeccable online behaviour and I would ask that you remind your child of the expectations of online behaviour. If they would not say it or do it in class then do not say it online!

April/May 2020



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A message from Father Stephen

Letter to all the Children, Parents & Staff

I want to wish you and all your families and friends a very 'Happy and Blessed Easter'. I pray you are looking after each other and keeping safe. There must have been times over the last few weeks when there was great joy, laughter and enjoying all this free time. Then other days there must be moments when you wanted to shout, scream and run away somewhere on your own, but that may always not be possible. These days are strange and challenging. Watching the News can be hugely upsetting these days with the Covid 19 Virus, it is difficult coming to terms with the reality of today. That's why we all have to be positive! Think positively and act positively!

Of course it can be easy for us to lose hope, and for our faith to go through shaky patches. With so much suffering in the world, it is no wonder that we sometimes ask the question: *where is God in all of this?*

But in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminded the apostles of the importance of their faith. St Thomas represents all of us. He was expressing the doubt and voicing the uncertainties which test our faith from time to time. Faith does not always come easily. Sometimes, believing is not a problem, but at times it can be a real challenge.

It is worth remembering that the faith of the apostles was no overnight experience. It was something gradual, which increased as they became more intimate with Jesus; the same is true of our faith. It will grow and deepen, provided we pray and have contact with Jesus. This is more evident today than ever before.

In our prayers and thoughts we think of the P4 pupils who would be receiving their First Communion here in St Joseph's and the P7 pupils who would be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop John in St Mirin's Cathedral, in Paisley. Followed by the parties, the family get together's and the Masses of Thanksgiving. Once this virus is finished we will be able to celebrate these days of faith and so much more!

When the unknown events are all around, we can be like Thomas. We are all at sea, afraid of what the future will bring. But Jesus wants us to have courage. What is Courage? it is believing in yourself, Courage is having the strength to believe in something. Courage is never giving up your dream. In these days of lockdown. Try hard to stay positive. Believe in yourself, believe in your family. Believe in God and don't forget to say your prayers in the morning and night - Thanking him for all we have.

Jesus greets his disciples with the simple blessing: 'Peace be with you.' Calming their troubled hearts. As we continue to celebrate the season of Easter, let us pray that our faith in Jesus will continue to grow. May God bless and protect you all

With Easter blessings.
Father Stephen



School website

Our school website is updated daily by Mrs Wright and Miss Morrison. There are lots of help guides on our website to support the use of Google Classroom, Education city and Sumdog. Remember if you are having problems logging in then email headteacher@st-josephs.e-renfrew.sch.uk and we will reset passwords or send you login details.

Our website has a parents page where you can access links for internet safety and useful learning websites. There are also links to support services for adults and children.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StJosephs/useful-websites/>

Remember to follow us on Twitter as this is also updated regularly and we send out useful links, information and reminders. Follow [@StJosephsERC](https://twitter.com/StJosephsERC)

Parent Council

St Joseph's Parent Council are still here to help you with any enquiries and you can still contact your class representative through WhatsApp.

Email - sjps.pc.sec@gmail.com

Twitter - [@Pc_StJosephs](https://twitter.com/Pc_StJosephs)

Support

The global response to Coronavirus has changed how we live for the foreseeable future; we are restricted in the choices we can make, the places we can go and even the people that we can see. This, naturally, can make many of us feel insecure, worried and even disempowered. It is completely normal to feel stressed and perhaps even scared in these worrying times.

Now the good news! There are lots of things we can all do to help us gain a greater sense of control through maintaining our physical and mental health. The World Health Organisation has produced some guidance on actions we can take to cope during these unusual times.

Looking to the future with hope and love

We still do not know when and how our schools will reopen to our children but we are sure that they will. Our message to our children is to stay happy and safe at home just now.

When we do return our focus will be on the health and well-being of our children. We will be reconnecting, nurturing and having fun together. Our children need to be supported to make sense of the situation and the impact it may have had on their lives and families.

Learning and teaching will move forward at the appropriate pace but there will be no great rush as we will get there together!

