



HOLY SOULS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"a place where we pray together and everyone is important"

Mallard Close, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 6BN

Tel: 0121 272 1776
Email: enquiry@holysoul.bham.sch.uk
Website: www.holysoul.bham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Girling



A St. Teresa of Calcutta
Multi Academy Company
School

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have not seen some of you in 2021! After six weeks of lockdown we have all achieved so much despite the restrictions. I hope you enjoyed our virtual Awards Assembly and it was lovely to be able to share our achievements. I use the word **our** as it has been a **team effort by everyone**. Be it cleaning the school, planning the lessons, checking emails, sending out messages, cooking lunches, giving out Dojo points, calling to check you are all ok or following the timetable at home. The list is endless and shows that in the words of St Teresa of Calcutta **"Together we can do great things."**

This week we saw our bubble burst here in school and Year 4 and Year 6 pupils and staff were required to isolate. My thanks to the staff for their instant action and to parents of Y4 and Y6 for their support with this matter. I also received emails this week from parents offering to get shopping for those isolating and others expressing their gratitude for all that we are doing. Thank you - it lifted our spirits!

On Wednesday 9th February 2021 the Department for Education published "Coronavirus – Daily update to all early years, children's social care, schools and further education providers." This document has been updated and shared the following information.

How should primary schools manage close contacts of those who have positive LFDs tests?

Schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, as defined in the actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak guidance. Those who have come into close contact with staff who have a positive LFD result should isolate straight away rather than waiting for the staff member's confirmatory positive PCR test. The staff member's household should also isolate immediately after the positive LFD result, as per the stay-at-home guidance.

Therefore as a result of this updated information a bubble may close at any point and this may be during the school day. Therefore as previously shared our key worker families must be ready to collect



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St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Multi Academy Company

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and have arrangements in place for isolation. This cannot be helped and we thank those parents who it may effect for their cooperation and support.

Remote Learning

The staff have worked tirelessly across school this half term and this is evidence that our remote learning is working and ensuring the children are learning. **We are so proud of you children for the work you are sending in, the wonderful pictures and updates we see every day.** A staff member shared this week that being a teacher is not really that helpful for home learning as they see you as Mum or Dad not a teacher and for all of us the juggle of work, home learning and newly found teacher status for our parents has not been easy. **We applaud and thank you for doing your very best and for your continued help and support.**

Remote Learning finishes when school closes for half term break on Friday 12th February and all emails and Class Dojo will not be responded to until Monday 22nd February. Please see this week's Remote Learning newsletter for further updates.

Safeguarding: If you have any serious safeguarding concerns please contact CASS on 0121 330 1888.

The **Children's Advice and Support Service** (CASS) provides a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to access support or raise concerns about a child.

A message from Mr Crehan

At the end of this half-term, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank our parents for their great support over these last weeks. School continues to respond to unprecedented circumstances and often has to make decisions swiftly and with limited scope to provide as much notice, as we would like. Your continued understanding is greatly appreciated. In addition, thank you for your wonderful work in supporting home learning. School leaders; do not underestimate the efforts of parents with home schooling, alongside managing other jobs and the daily challenges of domestic life. I think it is fair to say, that it is parents who are well deserving of this half-term break! We have been informed, that schools will not reopen until 8th March at the earliest with some planning details expected to be provided on the 22nd February. As an Academy, we want to have our children back in school safely and as soon as it is possible.

With every best wish for a good half-term break.

Mr Crehan (Accounting Officer)

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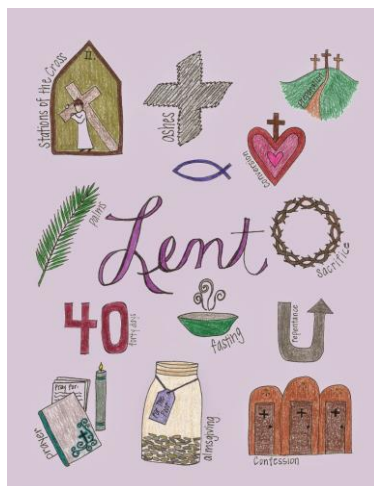
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The Season of Lent



As we approach Ash Wednesday (17th February 2021) it is with a heavy heart that we are not together to begin our Lenten journey. This liturgical season is central to our journey of faith and a highlight of the school calendar.

Our thanks to Father Jonathan and Father Alex who will be producing some on line videos for us all to watch and participate in. Thank you to Miss Trodden who has already sent out the calendars and Lenten materials. Let us pray in hope that we are all back in by Holy Week if not before and look forward to celebrating our liturgies and this season together.

Children

I am setting you a challenge! Can you be the teacher and make up a quiz and test your grown-ups and find out what they know about Lent?

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Parish Mass will be celebrated in Church or by live stream on Wednesday 17th February at 10:00am, 12:30pm or 7:00pm. Please do tune in.



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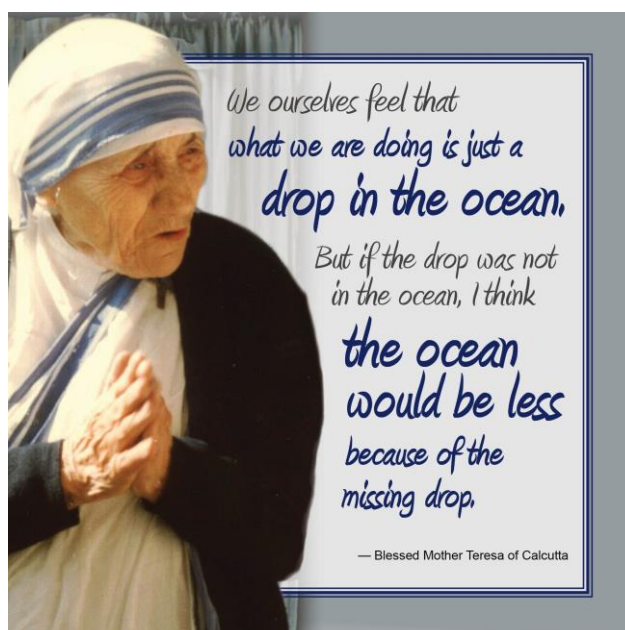
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I think therefore that we declare our half term holiday has started!

**Have a rest, enjoy time together and let us all be grateful for what we have
and continue to place our trust in the Lord.**



Lessons begin on line at 9:00am on Monday 22nd February starting with our Gospel Assembly.

For our key worker families we will reopen at 8:30am to pupils currently attending.

May God bless us and keep us safe.

Mrs Girling



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