



*Achieving excellence through
the pursuit of good*

Bathwick St. Mary Church School
Darlington Road
Bath
BA2 6NN
01225 465654
office@bsm.bwmat.org
www.bathwickstmary.org
Headteacher: Mr. Kevin Purkiss



'GOOD NEWS' Newsletter Nine: 17th April 2020

Dear Children and Parents,

Thank you to all of you who have sent lovely photos and emails of some of the great activities and things you have been involved with over this Easter break - we have Easter gardens, baby chicks, great DT projects, amazing art and some outside activities to share! Even though we are not yet back together, we have plans to develop our Home Learning to develop our way of communicating during Term 5.



A new approach to Home Learning for Term 5

We understand how important it is for our children to maintain positive relationships with their teachers and how much they will benefit from two-way school and home communication. Primary teaching is about interaction, discussion and use of questioning to develop children's thinking and learning. As such, online 'delivery' of lessons does not adequately suit primary education - but we want to utilise online tools to maintain relationships and enable children to keep in touch with their teachers.

As such, we will continue to provide the weekly plans that many children and parents have commented so positively about. In addition, we have investigated several solutions that can facilitate two-way school / home communication. There are a wide number of solutions available, but it is essential that the platform we use has been adequately reviewed from a safeguarding perspective and is manageable and meaningful for children, parents and teachers.

We have chosen 'Tapestry' (<https://tapestry.info/>) which will be familiar to many parents already. We are **working on getting this set up as soon as possible**, remotely training teachers and setting up the software. We will release usernames, passwords and full information as soon as possible in early Term 5. Watch this space!

Tapestry information continued...

The Tapestry tool will enable teachers to share video content, children to submit their work and some feedback to be provided. If children are stuck or confused, we can more easily provide assistance. Whilst the setup is being completed, if you have any further questions, please do email me: office@bsm.bwmat.org

All home learning resources for next week (week commencing 20th April) will be live by the end of today on our website here:

<http://bathwickstmary.org/home-learning-resources-2/> We will be posting all Home Learning each Friday on our website, ready for the following week. One link that may well be of interest to children in the Juniors especially (with thanks to Ethan in Year 5 for sharing) is this: <https://isset.org/live/spacetolearn.php>

It is a weekly interview / Q&A with an astronaut on the international space station.

Father Peter wanted all our school community to know that he is available to have a chat over the phone or via email, especially in these uncertain times. He can be contacted on 07776 227555 or frpeteredwards@sky.com.



Residentials: Year 5 – Deanfield (22-24 April)

I am sure our children are thinking about their Deanfield trip which was due to take place next week. We are working with the Deanfield centre to aim to rebook for later this year. It may be possible to book the trip later in the summer or even in the Autumn – we will share next steps in due course.

Residentials: Year 6 – Isle of Wight (1-5 June)

Dependant on the latest Government advice, there is a possibility the Year 6 trip may be able to go ahead. We are therefore waiting until nearer the time before making decisions.

Residentials: Year 4 – Magdalen Farm (17-19 June)

Similarly, dependant on the latest Government advice, there is a possibility the Year 4 trip may be able to go ahead. We are working with Magdalen Farm and may also be able to rebook later in the year if necessary. Again, we will share next steps in due course.

Should any of the trips not be able to go ahead, please be assured all families will receive a full refund.

A new service for vulnerable residents

Our PCSO, Rich Riley, is keen to let all our families know this useful information:



Have you heard about a new service for vulnerable residents in the community who are 'shielding' and have no support? Community and voluntary sectors are playing a key role and are working hard to provide up-to-date health information and advice. Together with 3SG and Virgincare, a telephone line offering the public advice on a range of critical support has been launched. The line is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm initially. The telephone number is 0300 2470050.

Vulnerable people with concerns over food supply, welfare or wellbeing should seek help from the hub. Staff operating the phone line can prioritise those who need the most help and get to calls as quickly as possible. We have also started to receive bulk food for distribution for our vulnerable residents who are currently 'shielding' for a period of 12 weeks.

<https://www.3sg.org.uk/pages/compassionate-community-covid-19>

In the absence of our daily Collective Worship, especially for children, here are some reflections about Easter and a hope for the future...

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The Bible teaches that Jesus ascended into heaven – and the disciples then had a huge task before them.

Easter is about new beginnings. Education is about new beginnings, new learning, new opportunities. We are all learning, all adapting and all supporting others. We are all beginners as we adapt to this new way of being, just like the disciples after the first Easter. The Bible reminds us that Jesus did not leave his disciples. He appeared to them, filled them with hope and gave them confidence and His Holy Spirit. Christians believe that Jesus is very much alive and with us today, loving us forever and giving us hope!

Whether we have any faith or none, remember you are not alone at this time, that there will be an end to this strange time where we are apart. Remember that there is hope! The famous author, Charles Dickens, wrote in 'The Pickwick Papers', '**There are dark shadows on the earth, but its lights are stronger in the contrast.**'

A prayer

Dear God
Thank you that Jesus is risen!
Thank you that Easter is about a beginning of new hope.
Thank you that Easter is about being a beginner.
Thank you that we can find hope in one another.
Thank you that we can find eternal hope in you.
Thank you that you will love us forever.
Amen



Thank you to Lucia (Year 2) for this lovely design

Now for some amazing home learning activities...

Sophie (2) has been thinking about the world and how all the rivers are running clear and the ozone is healing. She thought what we could do – which



was not to pick flowers! She has also been painting plant pots and planting sunflowers in the sun in line with 'growing' topic.

Pip (5) has been creating some brilliant pyramids for his topic.



Also in Year 5, **Beau** has been trying out origami! He has been making stars by folding paper into various triangles to make diamond shapes. He then incorporated geometry and



still life with influences of David Hockney – amazing!



Evie (2) has managed to hatch three chicks - Lemon, Fluffy and Goldie!



Well done **Moss (3)** who completed this brilliant art challenge. Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Herron were very impressed!



Laurie (1) and his pet crocodile really enjoyed rainforest day with their animals!



Alex (6) has designed and built a desk tidy out of cardboard for DT – I could do with one for my office, Alex!

He is also learning to touch type and is now on level 32 of his online course.



Filip (1) created this brilliant penguin using all his DT skills – well done Filip! He also has been caring for his bean plant.



Fabienne (4) has created this brilliant picture of her cat, Mim-mim! I love your creativity, Fabienne!

Over Easter, several children in school (**Seb, Laurie, Tycho, Zibelia, Kason, Zara, Jessica**) have been preparing the Sow 'n' Grow beds for planting – we are hoping to harvest our crops before too long! A few children have created an Easter garden and made a rainbow thanking our NHS keyworkers!



THANK YOU children for sending me your brilliant emails! Ready for the next Newsletter, please send more of your photos and learning in to office@bsm.bwmat.org.



Please do keep sending them in!

With my best wishes to all our parents, children and families.

Kevin Purkiss