



# The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 22 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

We have arrived at the end of Week 1 and I bet you, like us are exhausted.

I've taken a few calls this week from parents worried they aren't getting it right or that their children are going to fall behind. These are unprecedented times and we are all finding our way. As educators never before have we had less than 24 hours to close our school, plan and prepare a curriculum for children to work with at home and activities for children in a childcare setting, organise our own childcare, organise our own children's education, attempt to get food supplies and put together a rota for a skeleton staff. Our front office has never sent so many emails/texts/calls/tweets since social media came into existence!

We have risen to the challenge and so have you. We are all adapting to our new roles and new way of life and so I thought I would share another head teachers post....

*Dear Friends, A number of common themes have emerged from various communications over the last week and I wanted to share my own perspective with you in order to answer some important questions.*

- *The work and suggestions we are preparing to send home is not Home-schooling. Home-schooling is a choice that is made by parents, this has been thrust upon you by an unprecedented global crisis.*
- *You are your child's primary educator. You always have been. You decide what they do with their time. This is a great opportunity to allow our children to be children. Let's take it. Make mud pies, wear silly costumes and dance like no one is watching! Don't feel guilty because your child is having fun instead of learning spellings.*
- *We were told at very short notice to prepare lessons and send them home. What nonsense. We would all be out of work if that were possible. Teaching is a social process, no one ever learned anything valuable from a worksheet.*
- *We are all winging this.*
- *You are not superhuman. You can't teach your primary age children and do your job at the same time. That way lies madness!*
- *Your child will not fall behind. We will cover everything when we are all back together.*
- *Baking, Lego, playing outside, climbing trees, gaming and using tech to communicate with friends is learning.*
- **READ EVERY DAY**
- *We have been given an unprecedented opportunity to spend time with our families and particularly our children. It won't be long before your children inevitably leave this wonderful stage of their development. Make the most of it. Enjoy it. Yours and their mental health is extremely important at this time. De-stress the situation and see it as a gift to enjoy quality time with your amazing children. I miss them already! We will be sharing home learning grids rather like the homework grids. Use them as much or as little as you like. We will also be sharing some website links. Remember, you are doing the right thing by being with your children and showing them the love of your family.*

We could not agree more!! Enjoy this very special time together! Keep following and sharing your fun on Twitter and Facebook or email the office at [admin@thegoodshepherd.northants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thegoodshepherd.northants.sch.uk).

Until next week's update...

*God Bless,*

*Mrs Dodds and Mrs Robinson*



[www.TheGoodShepherdCatholicPrimarySchool.org.uk](http://www.TheGoodShepherdCatholicPrimarySchool.org.uk)



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## Art in School

On Monday, some of our children in school created Andy Goldsworthy inspired artwork. He uses objects from nature to create stunning pieces of artwork.



Mrs Bowen caught not one but 2 badgers on the night camera in her garden this week! The children in years 1 and 2 know about Mrs Bowen's evening visitors. They are even using social distancing!

Thank you so much for sharing what you have been up to this week with us! Please send your pictures in via Facebook, Twitter or e-mail to be in next week's newsletter!



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we have already reached the end of our first week working and learning from home!



What has amazed me about this week is the incredible acts of kindness I have witnessed - in the supermarket queues, neighbours looking out for neighbours, strangers and their dogs giving a smile of encouragement from the two metre line, notes through doors with helpline numbers... to name but only a few. I think for me the greatest act of faith this week was seen in the almost half a million people in our country who have signed up as volunteers with the NHS! That is a miracle in itself!

As parents you are now home schooling your children – volunteers of a different kind!

When you just need a moment to breathe, step outside the door and wonder at the warmth of the sun, the brilliant blue sky, the quietness without traffic, the birds singing, the cleaner air and the beauty of the arrival of Spring – it is happening in spite of everything and it is pretty amazing! If it happens to be raining when you step outside, just keep looking for rainbows!

God bless,  
Rose Darwin  
Chaplain to the Northampton Catholic Schools.

Well done to all of you who have been logging into Purple Mash, it is fantastic to see you all joining in!



## Top Tips...

- Check your "to do list" - there are tasks set specifically for your child.
- Once your child has completed work, ensure to click the "hand in" button, this means your teacher can mark your work!

