



St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Head teacher: Mrs. C.M. O'Hara B.Ed DPSE(Music)



My swivelly chair
My desk (with a cup of tea on it of course)
My room (with the door open)
Your school
Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Children,



We have all listened to what Mr Johnson , our Prime Minister, has asked us to do, and as part of our British Values, we have to “*follow the rule of law*”. It is not always what we want to do or not always what we think is right, but we will use our virtues to be *attentive, hopeful, discerning and wise*.

We would really love it if you could all come back to school, at the same time, and play as if nothing had happened, but we can't. (*I know ... it's so annoying!!!*) So, we are relying on you being the brilliant children we know that you can be, to be patient and hopeful that with: good hand washing, social distancing and following the rule of law, we will be able to welcome more and more of you back as we get nearer to the Summer, in readiness for September.

Let's just think for a second about what you have had to do (draw a big tick by the ones you have achieved):

1. Not be in school and see your friends
2. Not go out to your favourite restaurants
3. Not go out as often to your favourite places
4. Work from home without teachers and friends to help
5. Not see your favourite aunties/uncles/cousins/grandparents except on social media
6. Not play out with your friends or invite them home
7. Help your Mums and Dads to understand the work that your teachers have set for you
8. Help your brothers and sisters more

If you have ALREADY done all of those things, then the next step of waiting and being patient is easy.

Now let's just think again about what gospel values you have achieved in all of those 8 points above:

1. Like Jesus, you have had to go without some of the things you wanted to do, without moaning- *a bit like when He fasted in the desert, a bit like when we give up things for others during Lent.*
2. Like Jesus, you have had to use your talents to help your family and your friends in different ways- *a bit like when Jesus asked Peter to stop fishing for fish and to come and be a fisher of men - a bit like when God asked Mary and Joseph to change their simple lives and become parents of the most important baby in the world, Jesus.*
3. Like Jesus, you have been part of changing the world and the way the world behaves- *a bit like when Jesus and John the Baptist told people they needed to change their ways through the parables - like the story of the Lost Sheep and the story of the Prodigal Son - and through John's baptism of many and of Jesus*

4. Like Jesus, you may have lost people you loved – a bit like Mary standing at the foot of Jesus' cross

When you are as old as me, (*er ...stop laughing or guessing thanks, no, I am not in triple figures yet!!*) your children and their children will ask you, "What happened in 2020 Granny/Grandad?" and you will be able to tell them just how much you learned about:

1. your family – and how your Mums and Dads cared for you and worked with you on all of your home learning, even when they were not quite sure. You were a great team! (*and you did get over the arguments and smile at each other again!*)
2. yourself - and how you realised that going for a walk or a bike ride was actually something to really look forward to and worth doing every day.
3. the world - and how, when everyone HAD to slow down and stop trying to do everything quickly and angrily and competitively it was a better world.
4. your neighbours - and how they really are quite nice when you have time to stop and speak with them - when you are not always rushing here and there.
5. Yourself f- and that you CAN manage without your friends; you CAN do your schoolwork online at home; you CAN live without having all of the trips to the different places and clubs that you thought you HAD to have.
6. the planet earth - and that it does not need us as much as we need it. It has grown more beautiful and more glorious because we have not taken it for granted.
7. your faith - and that you were scared and worried, yet, just like the poem, FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND, when we need Jesus most, he is there with us.

Your children and grandchildren will be so proud of you. They will share stories of what you did in their playgrounds, and they will feel glad to be a part of what you did in 2020.

There is no looking back; it is all looking forward now. Yes, we need to be a little more patient but we really are resilient now and we have proved it! (*Look at all of the chefs that we have discovered from Nursery up to Y6. I look forward to some regular cakes now, to go with my tea!*)

I promised you on the 20th March, that we would be back soon and that we needed to help the planet get better. It may take a little more time, but what you have done is fantastic! I suspect some of you may be really nervous about coming back... don't worry; we will show you the new rules to keep you safe. Your teachers are already sorting that out right now.

Take a few more deep breaths; take care, stay safe and do as your Mums and Dads ask!!!



Mrs O'Hara xx