

# English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School Newsletter

## February 2021



*Worship Together - Aspire Together- Excel Together*

**We have completed our first half term of 2021; it has been a very challenging time, and I would like to say a very special Thank you to all the parents and staff for your support this term, it has been hard juggling all the needs of the parent requests and your patience is much appreciated.**

This will be newsletter to you as your Head Teacher, Mr Camilleri will join EMS on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, and we are looking forward to welcoming him to our school. My last official day will be March 31<sup>st</sup>, and I hope to be able to somehow celebrate my time with each and every one of you in some way. It has been a pleasure to know you and watch your families grow over the many years I have been here. English Martyrs' will also hold a special place in my heart.

Class Zoom – It has been so lovely to be able to interact with all of you at home through our zoom meetings every day. I know this has been a little hard to access for some parents but we appreciate everybody's effort and feedback from parents has been very good.

Remote learning – Parents have been collecting home learning packs and these are available on our school website, new packs will be available on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Online learning - The engagement levels of pupils online learning has been amazing, thank you for your hard work. We are continuing to finalise details of Microsoft teams and parents will be updated as soon as possible.

Home learning devices – We have received some laptops and tablets from the DfE and started distributing these to parents, we understand there is a high need for these devices and are working with the DfE on how we can obtain more. Parents received a kindle that can allow you to access online learning which has been helpful.

Early Years - children have been busy this half term. During literacy lessons we read the book "Here We Are" which is about planet earth. (You can see it on You Tube) The children learnt about the features of the planet, the need for kindness and care for living things, and each other. In maths lessons, Reception children learnt to read and set O' clock times on the clock. They also learnt about money and the differences, and similarities between the value of coins. Nursery have been doing number recognition, counting and learning about 2D shapes. There was a lot of joy and excitement when the snow came and we went out to play in it. Children at home have also been busy and completed activities on purple mash, work packs and attended zoom sessions. They have done some amazing work and we are proud of them. Thank you parents for supporting your children with their learning. We have had some beautiful art work sent from pupils in reception to showcase what they are learning at home.

Year 4 - Well done to the year 4 class for the excellent progress they have been making this half term, in a range of subjects. In particular, they have really impressed me with their writing. The year 4 children have used features of a good story (fronted adverbials, noun phrases, similes etc) to write their own interesting poems and stories, which have been a joy to read! Also, we have been focusing on mental health, with the focus being on expressing ourselves. They have demonstrated an excellent understanding of the importance of expressing ourselves and how to help ourselves and others feel positive. The zoom assembly on this topic was a fun way to express what they have learnt. In addition, the year 4 children have been celebrating 'safer internet day'. We have had live lessons, discussions and tests about how to stay safe online. The children recognise the importance of this matter as it is more important more than ever, as the internet is used more and more.

Year 5 and Year 6 - Ms Brewu and Mrs Leakey would like to say a very big '**Well Done**' to all the hard working pupils in year 5 and year 6. Thank you to all of you who attended the zoom meeting every morning, who completed all their Purple Mash activities, finished all their My Maths tasks, everyone who collected work packs from the school and those children in school. We know you have all worked very hard and we think you are amazing!

PE - A big shout goes to all the children in school who have been participating in PE. Everyone has been putting in the effort to improve their physical fitness and health, which is crucial all of the time, especially in lockdown. The children have been having fun whilst improving a range of transferable skills like catching, throwing, kicking and negotiating space that are used in a range of sports. Also, well done to the children who have been competing in the challenges we put up on purple mash, participating in Joe Wicks fitness sessions, and also completing the skills based challenges on the school website! There is a lot of information on the school website about how to stay fit and healthy and improve your wellbeing, which is fundamental for children and adults. Mr Longley

SEND Thank you to all the parents and children who have been attending meetings remotely to support their children with their learning. This includes our parent forums on Zoom and meetings with the Educational Psychologist and Speech and Language Therapist. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and concerns you have via the School Office or SEND email.

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Pupils currently attending school will be returning on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, we wish we could have you all back; however we are waiting for the Government guidance on full schools reopening.

Please continue to stay safe during the school holiday and take the time to relax and rest.

God bless you and your families.

Please remember to listen to your child read and support them with their homework.

Mrs Appah and staff

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