



10th April 2020

Dear Parents

Greetings to all in our school community in this most important week of the year for Christians. We are now several weeks in to our new but temporary reality and Easter Week arrives at just the right time in our lives.

You yourself may be Christian, you may be of another faith or of no faith at all but bolstered by a set of beliefs that work for you - but whatever your beliefs, now is probably a time where you have looked at them afresh as we face such a difficult time. Maybe you know of someone who has died or is critically ill, maybe a member of your family is working to look after others or maybe you are just struggling to do the right thing and stay at home to help 'everyone'. It is at these times of struggle that lots of us look to our belief system to try and make sense of it and to give ourselves renewed strength. All of those struggles are encompassed by the emotional roller coaster that is Holy Week - from the grief and darkness of Good Friday, the hope of the Easter Vigil as light and hope begins to emerge from the darkness, to the joy and celebration on Easter Sunday when the resurrection is celebrated. In all this we have an almost exact but short replication of what we are all going through at the moment.

For those that have lost someone, the grief will probably stay with them a very long time. But for all of us, even in these darkest of times there are shafts of light emerging - whether it be from our fearless healthcare workers and the constant hard work of all the keyworkers, or the acts of community help being carried out all over the country and the renewed care many of us are showing for each other. These are the rays of hope that will carry us through.

Yes, these are extraordinary times and very challenging especially for those who were already struggling before this crisis but the celebration at the end of this time will not just be about surviving but should be about us taking the opportunity to make a world that is fairer and has more care and love in it than before.

I have included a message from Rev. Amy and some links to some maths games from a Newham resident Bobby Seagull who visited our school last year - well worth a look. Apologies if anyone is waiting for a reply to an email sent to me because I have had problems accessing that particular email address from home this week but I am back in work from Tuesday and will answer them as a priority.

Have a spiritual Easter and above all, stay safe



Matt Hipperson Head Teacher

A Message from Reverend Amy

This might be the strangest Holy Week ever!

At a time where Christians often gather together to worship these central days in our faith, we are being kept apart. However, despite our unusual circumstances, the good news of Christianity is still good news. Jesus died and rose again to defeat death and sickness forevermore. God is bigger than Corona virus, he's bigger than sickness and he's bigger than the fear that is gripping our world! When you feel scared or anxious this week, I pray you will know the peace of Christ; in moments where things are dark, that you know his light; and if you, or those you love are sick, I pray you will know God's comfort and healing.

Do stay in touch with St Luke's Church - we are praying for you. Why not join in with some of our live streamed services over Easter weekend (see flyer below). Do let me know how I can be praying for you.

Praying for you and all at the school.

God bless

Amu



Suggested maths activities from Bobby Seagull (a Newham resident who ended up doing maths at Cambridge).

1. Maths Puzzles on YouTube

I have a new maths YouTube channel "Maths Appeal" created with a teacher friend Susan Okereke (aimed at keen primary and early secondary). I post videos of puzzles/solutions every Tuesday and Thursday. Students can follow @MathsAppeal on Twitter and Instagram.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCtB5x0uDQE

2. Live Maths Lessons

I'm doing FREE live maths lessons on "Explore Learning" Facebook page starting this Monday 6th April at 10am. Mondays will be Key Stage 1, Wednesdays Key Stage 2 and Fridays Key Stage 3.

https://t.co/vAhXI2822i?amp=1

You can also watch a TED talk from Bobby, "Why Everyone Should Love Maths!", at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxPJ0SJSOsg&

Canning Town Covid-19 Support: Food and Essentials

We are accepting donations from the public, which will then be sorted, packed and safely delivered to Canning Town residents who need them.

Please purchase non-perishable foods and essential household items and drop them in the entrance area at River Christian Centre, Vincent Street, Canning Town, E16 1LZ, Monday and Friday 9am-6pm.

> If you are in need of support we may be able to help. Contact us on 020 74761171 or 07470301364

We are asking you consider if there are other alternatives first e.g. family or online deliveries. We want to prioritise those in most need.



We are a partnership of local organisations working in liason with Newham Council