



**Interim Headteacher:** Mr Simon Bartram

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## St Ignatius Catholic Primary School 'An inspired learning community with Jesus Christ at the centre'

Dear Parents & Carers,

15.05.20

### **Emergency Contact Number**

Mr Bartram has the school mobile which will be on between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, for emergencies only. Please call 07956 662797 should you need to speak to him.

Other contact methods are still available – Class Dojo, school phone number, and office email [admin@stig.bkcat.co.uk](mailto:admin@stig.bkcat.co.uk)

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Our local safeguarding advisor and health improvement team have asked schools to pass on the information about a survey for children in year 5 and 6. The objective is to gain insight into children's and young people's experiences of the current epidemic and how this has affected their health and well-being, whether they have been at home or have attended school. It is 100% anonymous; they do not collect any information that could identify someone. It should take only 5-10 minutes to complete. The deadline for it to be completed is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. The survey will be analysed and a report produced that will be made available to all schools, council departments and health colleagues.

[https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/School\\_Lockdown\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/School_Lockdown_Survey)

The survey also contains details of the recently produced website <https://wf-i-can.co.uk/> which is a child and young person-centered website detailing all the local support to help them with their health and well-being needs.

### **Reopening of schools**

On Monday 11 May, following an address to the nation by the Prime Minister, the Department for Education (DfE) released guidance to schools that states:

"We ... anticipate, with further progress, that we may be able, from the week commencing 1 June 2020 to welcome back more children to early years, school and further education settings. We will only do this provided that the five key tests set by government justify the changes at the time, including that the rate of infection is decreasing and the enabling programmes set out in the Roadmap are operating effectively. As a result we are asking schools, colleges and childcare providers to plan on this basis, ahead of confirmation that these tests are met..."

As a school, with support from the BKCAT Trust, we are putting together a series of plans to make sure that children and staff can return safely. Many factors are taken into account and clear risk assessments in all areas will ultimately guide our decision-making. We have surveyed all parents in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 and are putting together a critical-worker form that will be sent out on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Once all this information is gathered, we will be able to communicate our plans further.

The received guidance changes daily and therefore please be patient with us. We must make sure we get this right for everyone concerned.

### **Parish Communication**

Our Parish community is here to help you at this difficult time. There are a number of groups working hard to support parishioners and other local residents. Please share this message with anyone you know who is in need of assistance.

Fr Richard is available and can be contacted on 01924 275824

Brenda Burnley is coordinating a Parish support group, which can help with friendly phone calls and shopping and can be contacted on 07969553243

Christine is the point of contact for the SVP who are available to support you in many ways and can be contacted on 07595181363. I am aware that they have a number of food vouchers still available for the families who may require them.

Catholic Care, the Leeds Diocesan Community Response service, is offering a wide range of support and can be contacted on 07739975001, 07739975008 or 07739975009

### **Preparations for national thank a teacher day – Wednesday 20 May**

On Wednesday 20 May, we are celebrating teachers, senior leaders, support staff and all those working in education settings who are making a difference to their schools and communities during the coronavirus outbreak. The Department for Education is working in partnership with the Teaching Awards Trust which has produced a set of resources including a Thank a Teacher toolkit containing graphics, images and frames for social media that you're free to use. The Thank a Teacher Toolkit is available here:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Thank-a-Teacher-Day-2020-Tool-Kit.pdf>

### **Reflection**

For my reflection today I would like to take you back to Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May which was International Nurses Day, so designated because it is the birthday of Florence Nightingale. Indeed, 12 May 2020 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth.

Born in Florence to wealthy English parents, fluent in 5 languages, educated at Kings College, London and Cambridge University, Florence was a brilliant young mind. She was also open to what she believed was God's call to nurse, despite that being considered a "disreputable" role at the time and one that was paid accordingly.

Florence had a deep personal devotion to Christ and while her faith and practice were Christian, she was aware of and alert to Eastern spirituality too, seeing great good in other faiths. As a young woman and shortly after the Emancipation Act when Catholics in England were only starting to be able to

acknowledge and practice their faith publicly for the first time since the Reformation, Florence explored whether she was called to be Catholic and although that certainty never emerged, she was a lifelong advocate for all denominations and faiths being treated with equal respect.

Despite her parents grave concerns and with their hope that she would somehow "get it out of her system" and accept one of the many marriage proposals offered by "suitable" and wealthy men, Florence enrolled as a nurse in Germany. Having gained huge knowledge and fame as the first female in a military hospital during the Crimean War, she went on to establish the first professional nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in London.

Florence was a powerful advocate for social reform - her voice changed conditions for men in the army and those conditions persist today - that wounded men would be continued to be paid along others.

An avid and brilliant statistician and indeed the first female Fellow of the Statistical Society, Florence used data to inform her nursing practice and helped to popularise the use of pie-charts (which she called coxcombes). She worked closely with Dr William Farr, a pioneering statistician, creating statistical diagrams to illustrate her medical findings in a clear and accessible way, using this information to streamline care, strategic planning and long term reform. Indeed, Florence's writings sparked world-wide health care reform.

As well as her strong intellectual drive, Florence prioritised the individual and personalised care and dignity of the patient - including in death.

She communicated directly and clearly with their families at every stage.

Florence said and wrote many things that might be pertinent to us today:

*"Live life when you have it. Life is a splendid gift – there is nothing small about it".*

*"So never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself".*

*"I am of certain convinced that the greatest heroes are those who do their duty in the daily grind of domestic affairs whilst the world whirls as a maddening dreidel"*

*"To be a fellow worker with God is the highest aspiration of which we can conceive man capable"*

*"Mankind must make heaven before we can "go to heaven" (as the phrase is), in this world as in any other"*

Today as we thank God for all who are called to nurse and for all who use their God-given gifts for the good of society, that we too will recognise our gift, our voice, our role in this challenging time especially. Like Florence Nightingale, may we see the dignity in all people and work for a world that supports and cares for all.

We don't have to look far to see God's spirit at work through time and around us now. I find that incredibly comforting and encouraging in these challenging times.

Take care  
Mr S Bartram