



**We learn together, we play together, we pray together,
we grow together in the love of God**

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SPRING TERM 2022

Friday 7th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy new year to you all and welcome back to the start of a new term here at St. Theresa's. We welcome all the new families who have joined us, and Mrs Reimus and Miss Cameron who have joined the teaching staff; we hope you will all be very happy here.

Most of you will now be aware that the guidance around taking lateral flow tests and/or PCR tests is changing as well changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19. Please ensure you have read the update in this newsletter, overleaf.

We have recently purchased a maths on-line app called "MyMaths" for maths homework, and we are very excited to begin using the platform next week with Y1-Y6. Today, children in Y1 to Y6 will be bringing home their login details, ready to access their maths homework next week. Once logged in, children will be able to see the homework tasks that have been set by their class teacher and when the homework is due. The app provides instant marking for the pupils; teachers can see the children's results within the teacher's area which allows the teachers to see how the children are performing. Teachers are able to allocate specific learning tasks and once the children have completed the homework, teachers are able to leave comments. In addition to the homework tasks set by the teacher, the children are also able to play maths games; each game is tailored to engage the children, provide a little bit of fun and a lot of practice to develop fluency. If you have any difficulty logging in or using the app, please speak to your child's class teacher. If you do not have access, or limited access, to the internet or use of a mobile device, please let your class teacher know and paper homework will be provided.

The school has now being using the online platform "Seesaw" for a number of years and we are delighted with how effectively it is used. A reminder to all parents to please note that teachers are in class during the day and are therefore unlikely to always be logged onto Seesaw. Therefore if you have general queries about school, please contact the office; if you do leave a message for the teacher regarding homework etc., the teachers will aim to respond as soon as they can, within normal office hours.

Have a lovely weekend.

Barbara Costa

The Wednesday Word

"Faith is a gift which we receive in Baptism and which allows us to encounter God" *Pope Francis*

In Church this Sunday, we celebrate a special feast – the Baptism of the Lord. The new year presents an opportunity to remember, or to discover the blessings at Baptism. Ask your child what else they know about baptism. If your child has been baptised, do they know where they were baptised and who baptised them? Do they know their godparents? You might also like to share with your child any memories you have of their baptism and how you chose their name. Perhaps you have photographs to show them

At Jesus' Baptism, the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus making him ready to begin his great work: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life. How can we live more like Jesus as we begin this new year? Perhaps we can: always try to help around the home; remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; as a family, resolve to support a charity in 2022; be peacemakers and try to make friends with someone we've fallen out with. You may like to choose something new to start together that will strengthen your family.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesdayword/preparation?pid-MTA101634&sp=5&cv=47.2>

Match Funding from your Employer

Match funding is a fantastic scheme whereby employers provide funding for organisations such as primary schools. It is a very simple and easy means of extra funding. As an employee it doesn't cost you anything, except maybe a little help at an event but could mean *hundreds of pounds* of extra money for the Friends of St. Theresa's, which directly benefits the children.

In many cases it is as simple as approaching your HR department and finding out about their scheme (the name of the scheme may differ depending on the company). If you think you may be able to help us, then please do contact the school office and you will be put in touch with the Friends of St. Theresa's.

Online Safety – WhatsApp

WhatsApp is widely used by children to communicate with individual friends and as part of groups. However, a risk for children and young people using WhatsApp is being added to group chats where they don't know the others in the group, which may increase the chance they come across upsetting or disturbing messages. To prevent your child being added to groups by people they don't know, you can change the group chat settings from 'Everyone' to 'My Contacts Except...' This setting means only your child's phone contacts except those that you select can add them to groups. By selecting all contacts, it means that nobody should be able to add your child to a group chat without first sending them an invitation.

COVID-19 update

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should report their result on GOV.UK and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test. After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

There are a few exceptions to this revised approach; for further information regarding the exceptions please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmatory-pcr-tests-to-be-temporarily-suspended-for-positive-lateral-flow-test-results>

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The DfE has clarified that this approach applies to staff and students in schools and education settings to ensure that children can return to their education as soon as possible after isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

My child has one or more of the three main symptoms, what should I do?

Your child must take a PCR test and isolate (and not come to school) until the results are received.

You need to forward the PCR results from the NHS to the school office.

If the result is negative, your child may return to school.

If the result is positive, your child must self-isolate and not attend school.

My child has no symptoms but has received a positive result on a lateral flow test – what should I do?

You must report the positive result on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and forward the confirmation email/text from the NHS to the school. Your child must self isolate and not come to school.

My child has been isolating (following a positive test result), and has now received a negative lateral flow test on day 6 and day 7, can they return to school?

Both negative test results must be reported on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and the email/text confirmation of the results from the NHS must be forwarded to the school office before your child returns to school.

Applications for Reception

Applications are invited for the **Reception Class for September 2022** – this is for children born between

1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018.

The deadline to return this to the school office is 15th January 2022. The forms are available to download on the school website. Please also be advised that you must also complete a CAF (Common Application Form) from Barnet - the on-line system is already open.

Non Stop Action

Bookings for Non Stop Action clubs are now open! Following feedback from the St. Theresa's school council pupils, for Spring Term these clubs will be Multi Sports clubs, which will offer lots of different sporting choices for your children to enjoy! Please see information about Multi Sports below:

Multi Sports - We offer a variety of sports and activities for the children to enjoy and develop several key skills. A big focus is placed upon improving children's ABC's, enabling them to be confident and understand the importance of skills such as movement, ball striking, throw & catching, dribbling linked into the various sports the children will be playing. We want the children to be individually confident, but teach the importance of teamwork, participation, respect, and fair play. In KS1, these sports will be themed differently and age appropriate, by simplifying activities linked to the sports. In KS2, we can offer a range of different sports, based on what the children in the club would like to do - these can include Football, Cricket, Basketball, Tennis, Athletics and more!

To book these clubs, please go to www.NonStopAction.co.uk and click **BOOK NOW** in the top right corner - please be aware that you will need to be logged in to see these clubs. If you haven't booked with Non Stop before, just register an account and make sure you list your child as attending St Theresa's.

If you have any issues, speak to Non Stop Action directly on info@nonstopaction.co.uk or 020 8446 0006!

Little Saints After School Club

Where? St. Theresa's School multi-purpose room

When? Every day after school until 6pm

Please contact Vicky for further information.

Email: Vicky_avraam@Hotmail.co.uk

Telephone: 07968 498 364

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs daily from 7.45am - 8.30am in the school hall for £3.50. Please let the school office know if you would like your child to attend.

Dates for your diary

Thurs 20th Jan Reception and Y6 Height and Weight check

Mon 14th Feb - Fri 18th Feb Inclusive – Half term

Fri 1st April Last day of Spring term 1pm finish

Tues 19th April First day of summer term

Mon 2nd May Bank Holiday

Mon 30th May - Fri 3rd June Inclusive – Half Term

Mon 6th June Staff Inset – School Closed for children

Thurs 21st July Last day of Summer Term – 1.30pm finish

*New dates in bold