



# CHRIST THE SAVIOUR C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Grove, London W5 5DX | New Broadway, London W5 2XA  
www.ctsprimary.org.uk | admin@cts-school.org | 020 8249 6800 | Headteacher: Mrs K. Tramoni

Friday, 3rd April 2020

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" 1 Peter 4:10*

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well. The weeks ahead are going to challenge every single one of us personally, professionally and for many of our families, financially, but our health and wellbeing must come first. I hope you have found some strength from members of our school community over the last few weeks and that the emails from class teachers and heads of year, as well as messages from the PTA and other parents, have helped sustain a sense of community in what have been very challenging times for everyone.

School staff are working hard to help everyone, but especially the most vulnerable children and families in our community and we are all looking forward to the time when we can be back together to see each other again. Please remind your children that this won't last forever and whilst we don't know yet when schools will reopen we are doing what we can at the moment to stay at home to keep each other safe.

Over the last few weeks we have learnt more about the amazing work many of our parents do to serve others, particularly those working in the front line of the NHS and others who are carrying out vital work during this global pandemic such as store assistants, clergy, cleaners, social workers, teachers, delivery drivers, civil servants and transport workers. Like our staff, many of you may also be volunteering to support your church or local area. We continue to pray for you and your families asking for God to give you strength and courage and the knowledge that our school community is applauding you.

## **Easter Holiday**

The school has remained open for a small number of pupils at the Grove Site and this has been made possible by a number of dedicated staff volunteers for whom we are all extremely thankful. These staff will be having a break over the two week Easter period and our after school provider, SSUK, will be operating a reduced provision at the Grove Site. Due to Government restrictions, this offer is only open to children who are currently attending our childcare provision. CtS staff will return to school after the Easter break for key workers and vulnerable pupils and will resume the usual timetable on Monday 20th April. If you need to change your scheduled days after Easter please email: [partialclosure@cts-school.org](mailto:partialclosure@cts-school.org) as usual.

## **Free School Meals**

The delivery of Free School Meals will change after Easter. The Government has recently introduced a national scheme to distribute benefits-related free school meals vouchers to eligible families. Parents will

receive an eCode and will be able to choose an eGift card from a range of supermarkets. We hope this will make it even easier for families to get the food they need from a local store. If you would like to enquire about your eligibility for free school meals please email Demi Grant-Sinclair directly who will be able to access this online check for you: [grant-sinclair@cts-school.org](mailto:grant-sinclair@cts-school.org)

Please note we have over 100 families entitled to this benefit. Please ensure we have the correct email address for you to help us set up this system over the Easter holiday. Vouchers will be made available to the adult with caring responsibility for that child.

### **School Vision**

In February, we set a home-learning task based around our school vision. We were overwhelmed with the high quality and really engaging work pupils produced and we had planned to share this work with pupils and parents this week. All work has been beautifully mounted and we will ensure parents have an opportunity to see this when school opens again.

### **Easter Holiday Task**

At this time of year we would usually invite pupils to make an Easter bonnet or an Easter garden in preparation for Easter. This might be something you would still like to do at home if you have the resources to do so. Our preparations for Easter and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection may be different this year but please spend time in your own homes working through the individual Lent booklets pupils were given.

On Holy Thursday, Jesus gave a very special command to His disciples: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" Then Jesus washed His disciples' feet to show us that no one is too great to serve others. We would like to ask all children to think of a way they can show their love for those in their community next week. This might be writing a letter to an elderly relative, drawing a picture for their teacher, writing a thank you poem to their parents. We have a number of staff who are self-isolating or unwell and we know they would really appreciate a letter or drawing so if you are able to get to a post box safely please do send these to the school. Many of you who attend Mass regularly will know Ann Sherren who helps us at our Broadway and Grove Site each week. Anne is in self-isolation and would love communication from pupils at the school. If you are able to post a letter or photo to the school we would happily get these to her.

### **Home Learning**

We are very grateful to the parents who have given encouraging feedback about the home learning that the school has provided with such short notice. Please be mindful that some of our staff are ill, some are in self-isolation for medical reasons and some have significant caring responsibilities and they are all doing what they can to juggle the challenges that face us all during this national pandemic. A number of parents have asked if we will provide video conferencing lessons or if staff can join in with individual or group chats online. There are a number of reasons why the school is unable to provide this service for families (equality of education, safeguarding pupils and minimising the risk of allegations against staff, not

to mention limited technology within some pupil and teachers' homes.) We thank you for understanding.

We have reviewed our current provision for home learning to ensure we are providing learning tasks that enable all families to access what we have on offer. After Easter we will continue to set weekly English and maths tasks for each year group and you will also receive whole school RE and foundation subject tasks. This will enable families with more than one child in the school to share learning around a common theme or topic. Ms Norris and Mr Barrett who lead Mathematics at our school will also share some fantastic online resources available through White Rose which some families may find appealing to supplement what we have to offer.

### **Keep Reading!**

We are aware that children are running out of their reading books. Here are some ways you can continue to access high quality books:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page#>

This website is free but you will need to sign up for an account. It has a good range of reading books for children of all levels.

<https://www.getepic.com/>

This website also has a very long list of titles and is currently free until the end of June.

### **Safeguarding your children**

The COVID-19 outbreak has affected everyone's daily lives. Regardless of their age this is a very difficult time for all children. Some may react right away, while others may show signs of difficulty later on. How children react can vary according to their age and how they typically cope with stress. During this time it is really important that you care for your own mental health as well as your family's mental health.

Our dramatherapist is supporting some families - please do contact her if you need support:

sophiegunnionlasek@cts-school.org

It is not unusual for children to return to behaviours they have outgrown during a major change of routine. For example toileting accidents, bed-wetting, or having tantrums. Older children may be feeling sad, angry or afraid, they may have trouble concentrating or may be acting out more often. Please don't be alarmed if you are experiencing some new or outgrown behaviours from your children. They are living through a major international crisis. Sophie Gunnion Lasek emailed some very helpful advice to families and I have attached her letter again to this email.

### **Online Safety**

Given the circumstances we find ourselves in, it is likely that children will be spending more time online. There is lots of advice and guidance out there for parents who may need to keep up with their child's online habits. At school we often refer to the excellent resources from CEOP

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>

## **Parent Pay Refunds**

All schools are facing significant financial difficulties with cash flow as we face a loss of income from lettings, Nursery fees, clubs and so on. Credit for lunch and breakfast club will be carried forward on your account. The school will not issue refunds for the last two weeks of clubs in the Spring Term as payment has already been made to these providers and costs to parents are kept as low as possible. Refunds for trips which have been cancelled or will not take place in the Summer Term (including the Year 6 Residential) will be made in full.

We have over £8,000 of outstanding fees owed to the school for the Spring Term including Nursery fees, breakfast club and lunch fees. As usual we ask parents to pay these before the end of term to support the school with our finances. Nursery fees will be reduced for the two weeks the school was closed in the Spring Term.

## **Year 6 Leavers**

This is a difficult time for all our pupils but especially our Year 6 students who will be worrying about the end of term, starting high school and how they will meet up with their primary friends. Please reassure your children that we will be making arrangements with the PTA for a fabulous Year 6 reunion if we do not return to school in the Summer Term. Currently, schools have not been told when we are permitted to reopen but as soon as we know this date we will start to make arrangements for our Year 6 pupils, please reassure them that they will not be forgotten and we will not let them go without a suitable farewell.

These are really trying times, but there are many examples of people doing incredible things and that is certainly providing great hope to us all. I hope you all manage to find some time to rest with your families over Easter.

With best wishes,

Mrs Tramoni