

Our Virtue to Live by: Simplicity

"Religion does bring large rewards, but only to those who are content with what they have. We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it; but as long as we have food and clothing, let us be content with that."

1 Timothy 6:6-8



Trying to live simply...

We move this week to focus on a new virtue...simplicity. We currently have very little choice but to live any other way in our day to day lives! I know how challenging your home life must be at the moment and I speak as a mother and not as a headteacher. I too have days where I am unable to balance work and home and the needs of everyone who depend on me, but I am trying my best and that's all we can do. First and foremost we must try to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. I know this is challenging too and we are all missing the support of our wider family and friends but there is light at the end of the tunnel and we must continue to live simply and do our best, being kind to ourselves and those who we meet (albeit virtually). I am sure you will join me in thanking all the school staff who have adapted to remote learning brilliantly. I regularly check all the Google Classrooms. The standard of learning and the interaction with pupils is just first class. I am publishing the school's remote learning policy on the home page of the website this week. Please take the time to read it. It sets out clearly the expectations and roles of staff, parents and pupils. We all have a responsibility to keep our children safe online and learning effectively. I have included the rules for taking part in 'live' lessons at the end of this newsletter and they are also in the remote learning policy.

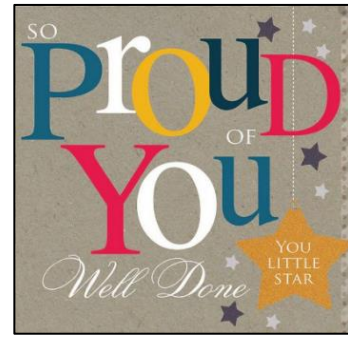
We are constantly reviewing our remote learning offer and we welcome your constructive comments. That is why I am sending a Google form out via email to every parent this week. It contains just a few questions, so please be honest and complete it as soon as you get it. Teachers are also attempting to phone every member of their class before half-term. We want a conversation about each and every pupil to find out how they are and to tell them we care deeply about their wellbeing and their education.

We continue to support our key worker families in school each day and I personally would like to thank the staff for looking after these pupils. As soon as I have more information regarding the re-opening of school for all pupils, I will let you know via the mobile app. These messages automatically upload to the main website page too.

Assemblies

I feel privileged to lead the school in prayer on Monday at 10am and then celebrate achievements on Friday at 1pm. The links to both assemblies are posted on your child's Google Classroom.

Well done to all those children who have been awarded a Worker of the Week certificate or a certificate for living out the Virtue of Faith since we returned in the New Year.



News from St. Patrick's Parish

Canon Eugene wishes you and your families all the best in 2021. He is praying for you all and cannot wait to welcome you all into Church once more to celebrate Mass together.

Please see the Parish website for further details about the current arrangements regarding opening times and Mass. <https://www.stpatrickschurchleeds.org.uk/> The Parish will restart the Sacramental programmes as soon as it is safe to do so.

Support for families during Covid – please click on the below for advice regarding help and support currently on offer in Leeds.

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus/people-and-communities>

Help with technology

We have distributed the devices we were given by the Dfe and I am sure those families that have received one, on loan are very grateful. Please contact school or please tell your child's teacher when they phone if you have no online access. There are other schemes that I may be able to access to help provide you with data. We need children to have access to their online classroom. It's important they continue to feel part of the class community.

Free school meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals we will continue to send a £15 Wonde voucher to your registered email address each week. This voucher will be sent during half-term too.

Reading at home daily – Please continue to use the Oxford Reading Buddy system during lockdown. Reading every day must continue to be priority for every child.

Reception Class Applications for September 2021

The online portal to apply for a place in Reception class closed on 15th January 2021. It is important that our school SIF form has been completed and returned to school. A copy of the admissions policy 2020-2021 and the SIF form are on the website. Places will be offered on 16th April 2021 via email by Leeds City Council.

Children's Mental Health Week - 1st-7th February 2021

A focus on child mental health begins today. We will encourage our pupils to express their feelings. Staff will be engaging their classes in activities this week but please see the links below for ideas at home. If you are worried about your child's mental health please speak to a member of staff.

Thank you Ms Harvatt and Mrs Webster for sharing the links below.

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/children-s-mental-health-week/>

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Express-yourself-calendar-PDF.pdf> - A lovely calendar for February encouraging children to express their feelings every day.

Welcome Miss Mate – I would like to formally welcome Miss Mate who joined us in January. Miss Mate is teaching Y3 remotely and doing a great job. Ms. Beattie is currently unwell and we wish her a speedy recovery.

St.Patrick's Rules for taking part in 'Live' sessions on the Google Classroom Platform
Please read over them with your child, so that everyone is clear about expectations.

Links for Google Meets must not be shared with anyone other than class members and staff at St.Patrick's

The children's name should be the screen name so that staff know who they are admitting

Children should be on mute unless told otherwise

Cameras should be on unless a parent/carer chooses to turn their child's off during a recorded session or a staff member asks for them to be turned off.

Sessions are not to be recorded/screenshot by pupils or parents

All live sessions should take place in an appropriate working space

An adult should be present in the room when a lesson is taking place

Children should be fully dressed during the session – no pyjamas/onesies

Children should not be eating during sessions

Children should attend online as they would in class- listening to adults and ready to ask/answer questions. Permission should be asked to leave the session as it would be in school.

Links for Meets are not to be created by pupils using the school Google Classroom.

The stream chat is only to be used to make comments about work. Staff will decide if the stream is allowed to be used during a session.

When a Google Meet has finished all members should leave and must not re-admit themselves thereafter.

