



**St. Ethelbert's Catholic
Primary School and Nursery**
'Learning, achieving and growing together with Jesus'
Headteacher: Mrs F. Maynard



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"The glory of God is
a human being fully alive!"



Thursday 7th May 2020

End of the Week Letter from Mrs Maynard

Dear Parents and Carers,

We end this week with some sunshine and the prospect of a Bank Holiday tomorrow. I know many of the usual activities that you would normally plan for this kind of day will not be able to happen, but I hope that you are able take some part in marking VE Day, whether it be watching some of the commemoration programmes on TV, making bunting or flags to hang out with your children, or helping them to understand what the day is about – BBC Bitesize will have a number of activities to share.

It is probably timely for us to remember the great sacrifice and bravery that so many people faced during the Second World War, as we are having to make smaller sacrifices for our personal freedom at the moment, and are so grateful to our NHS and key workers for their bravery.

Northampton Diocese have sent forward some prayers for VE Day, I include one here:

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service,
particularly in the Second World War, whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope, now and forever. **Amen.**

School Closure

You will be aware of a lot of speculation in the news that Boris Johnson is about to announce the end of lockdown and that schools may re-open. As I write this letter, there has been no official guidance about when schools may re-open. To allow this to happen, a lot of careful consideration will have to be given to pupil and staff safety, as well as that of our parents and wider community, and I have to be absolutely sure that whatever decisions are made can be managed safely. I would ask that all parents continue to work patiently with us. I will communicate any new developments to you as they happen, and will be very clear about how any possible school opening, whether in the near or more distant future, will look like in terms of practical arrangements.

School remains closed.

Work of the week

Some lovely work has been completed on Seesaw, I have been visiting the class pages and making a few comments on the children's work when I get a chance. Miss Mercer has put together the Work of the Week sheet which will come out with this letter and Mrs Harrison's letter to the children.

Please monitor the videos your child is sending on Seesaw, ensure they are appropriately dressed in day clothes, and not taking videos in their bedroom.

There will be no work set on Friday 8th May as it is the VE Day bank holiday

Letters from School

I am aware that in the weeks that school has been closed, you have received a lot of information from us. In the first few weeks this was to make sure that our families were being kept up to date with all the new information that was coming out from the government, local authority and other sources. I am very aware that this can feel overwhelming at times, and so most information is now put together in one email with a number of attachments so you get one email with all the information you need at the end of the week.

Year 5 Parents – 11+

If your child is in Year 5 and you are intending for them to take the 11+ school transfer test in the Autumn, please read the guidance from the Slough Schools Consortium that has been sent out today. Due to lockdown, the process of registering will be done online within a set timeframe. Please read the letter carefully and make a note of the relevant dates.

Wellbeing Calls

Staff are continuing to make our contact wellbeing calls to families, as are many primary schools. These are primarily to let you know we are still working for our pupils, to give you the opportunity to ask for help accessing the work and to let us know how your children are coping. The lists have been allocated across a range of staff so your call may come from the class teacher or another member of staff. I'm very pleased to hear that most families are coping as well as can be expected, but if you are under pressure, or need some help with school work or signposting to another agency for support, you can speak to school staff in confidence.

Tiktok

Tiktok videos are not appropriate for children to send to staff on Seesaw. Tiktok requires that users be at least 13 years old to use the app. Anyone under the age of 18 must have parental approval to use it, therefore it is not suitable for using to return class work. Please monitor your child's use of technology very carefully.

Safeguarding Reminder

If you have a concern about the safety of a child while schools are closed, you can contact the Front Door Hub at Slough to report an incident on **01753 875362**

Below is a very useful link for parents with guidance on how to set parental controls on internet access. With the increased time children are probably spending online, this is very important.

<https://parenthub.thekeysupport.com/parent-online-safety-zone/device-controls.html>

The staff and I continue to work hard at home to support our pupils and families and we send our best wishes, and pray that our families are safe and that we get to see you all again before too long. In this month of May, we share the prayer of Our Lady:

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.
Amen*

God Bless, stay safe

St Ethelbert, pray for us

**Mrs Maynard
Headteacher**