

It has been a 'challenging' week to say the least for us all. I am trying hard to remain positive and count my blessings but at times like this, it is difficult. I long for the time when school is filled with everyone again, when we can hug our friends and families, enjoy a meal in a restaurant, not think about 2 metre rules and generally be carefree again! My son said to me this week that he 'couldn't remember what life was like before Covid'. In many ways that made me feel so sad that the last year of his little life has been filled with restrictions and rules but at the same time I hope when we can enjoy the 'good times' again, the world will be a better place for our children to live in as we will all appreciate our families, friends, health and freedoms more.



Merseyside is now one of the worst areas in the country for infection rates. We desperately need to drive infection rates down, and to give the time and space to our critical services to deliver the care they need for both Covid and non-Covid related conditions, and to allow the rollout of the vaccine at as fast a pace as possible.

The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives. Only leave the

house when absolutely necessary. People need to stick to the rules, and ask themselves just because they can do something, that does not mean they should. Please: be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

The news continues to be full of sad and distressing information and whilst it is important that we are aware of what is happening and realise how serious the situation is we are living in; it can also be overwhelming at times.

For our children, their world has been turned upside down again and many of them are unable to understand properly the events that have led to schools being closed and them not being able to see their friends. They need reassurance and extra cuddles from us at home. Try and explain things in a way they understand, which won't scare them. Limit your watching of the news around children and the adult conversations you may be having about Covid so they do not become afraid.



There are useful resources available on

the 'Mental Health' page on our website and if you follow this link there is a lovely story you could share with children at home. In the story called '**Staying Home**' a family of energetic raccoons are, like us, going through a day in lockdown, no school, no nursery or work. It is a book that very much speaks about our current situation. The aim is to help parents explain a little more

about how important it is we all isolate at home. To read this, copy and paste this link into your browser.

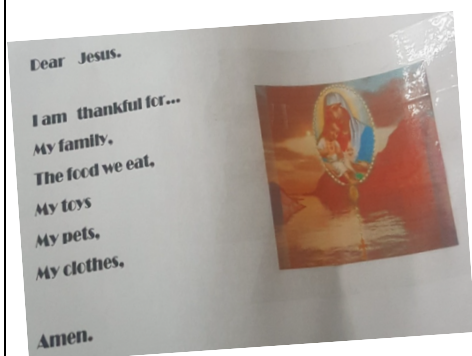
https://www.andersenpress.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/STAYING_HOME_medium-res.pdf

Something that has definitely made me smile this week has been seeing the children's home learning on SEESAW. Mrs Bennison and I have loved looking at what the children have been doing. Your commitment

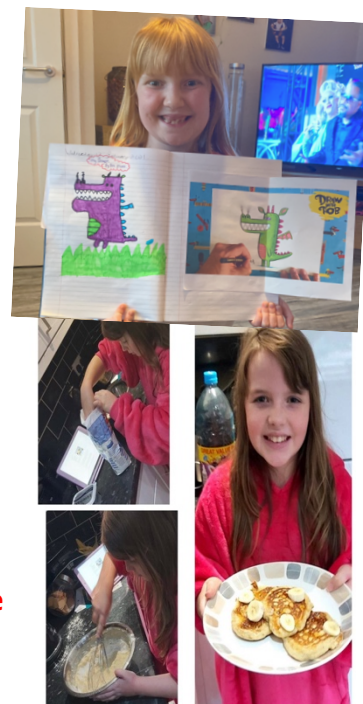
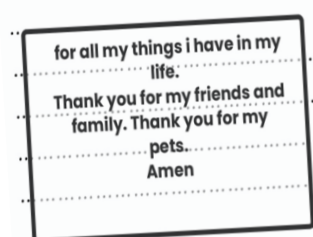
as parents to this has been great to see and you are ensuring that your children have the best chance of not falling behind their peers by completing their work each day. The work that has been submitted reflects the high expectations and pride that your children have in their work and enthusiasm to learn! If you or your child is struggling with anything, we are here in school to help so

please send a message via SEESAW or contact the School Office. As I said last week in the Newsletter, I appreciate how hard it is for you at home and the juggling some of you will be having

to do but all children need to have a go at daily tasks. This also helps give children routine and structure to their day and believe me the days will definitely go a lot faster!!!!



Thank you Jesus



Primary Assessments - Over the last week we have been informed by the DfE that the following assessments for primary children have been cancelled for this academic year. The cancelled assessments include: Year 6 and 2 SATS tests and Year 1 phonics tests. We await a decision on Reception Class EYFS assessments.

The Bishop of our Diocese (Bishop Mark) has dedicated a year of prayer to St Joseph. He has asked that we pray to St Joseph for the recovery of the parishes and communities of the Diocese from the Corona Virus pandemic.

For me, St Joseph who married Mary (Jesus' mother), is one of the unsung heroes from the New Testament. We are told very little about him but what we do know is that he did all that the Lord asked of him. He protected and supported Jesus and Mary through testing times which right now we are all experiencing. Just like St Joseph is an unsung hero, there are so many unsung heroes in our community right now who are doing so much to help others. The NHS staff, the supermarket workers, the post men and women, the bin collectors to name just a few. It goes without saying that I also think our teachers in St Michael's are unsung heroes, but today I pay tribute to all of you: our parents who are definitely being 'heroes' at the moment. You are having to be your child's 'teacher' at home as well as their parent and you are all doing a great job!



Message via SEESAW or telephone the school office if you need any support.

Please stay safe, take care and have a restful weekend.

Mrs Ralph