



# *Our Lady of Pity Catholic Primary School*

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Homework**

The term is flying along and the children are working brilliantly. They are coping so well with the demands of the curriculum and it is clear that an incredible amount of home learning took place during the first lockdown. The news this week reminds us that the impact of this pandemic will be with us for some time yet, and it is with this in mind that I need your support once again with our online learning platform.

At school, everything possible is being done to prevent an outbreak and keep the classes open. However, it is likely that as the rate of spread increases, classes or larger groups may need to be sent home. If this happens, the switch to online learning needs to be swift and seamless. To prepare for this, we have moved the majority of our homework onto the Seesaw platform. We want the children to feel really confident as they access learning online and work on tasks at home. As with all changes, it takes time to adjust and make things perfect. Please do not hesitate to ask for help if you are finding it difficult to log in or use the resources provided by the teachers. We are delighted with the children's responses so far. Please look out for the general feedback from the teacher which is given to the whole class after all the homework is in.

The simplest way of accessing homework on Seesaw is via a tablet or PC. Your child can complete the work in their homework book or on paper and a photo of the work can be very easily uploaded. There is no need to print out a worksheet so feel free to make simple changes so that answers can be presented easily. The teachers will be spending time in school reminding children how to use Seesaw and encouraging everyone to do a little bit of homework every night.

I know that some of you will be wishing that we could stick to paper-based tasks as we did in the past. Please remember that we are having to adhere to strict COVID guidance in the school, our workplace. Simple tasks like photocopying and printing are now much more difficult because rooms without ventilation are out of bounds; supplies of paper and other staples are taking longer to arrive. Put simply, running a school during a pandemic is much more complicated than it may seem!

## **Parents' Meetings**

This term, we will be holding a series of Zoom meetings for each year group. The dates (early October) will be sent out shortly and published on the website. At these meetings we will talk about the curriculum and show you how to help your child at home. As it is not possible to offer face to face meetings at the moment, please email the teacher if you need any additional information.

## **Author Visit**

We are delighted to announce that we are taking part in a live-streamed author event with Baroness Floella Benjamin. Many of you will remember Floella as a children's TV presenter but you may not

be aware of her fascinating life story. The children will hear about her new book, filled with optimism and joy; a powerful story of courage and determination.

### **PTA - Thursday 8th October**

We can't do our usual PTA fairs and events but that doesn't mean that our PTA has gone into hibernation! Please join us by Zoom on Thursday 8th October at 5:30 to find out how you can help the school this term. If you are new to the school, you will be made especially welcome and there is always something you can do to get involved in the latest plans. We are just about to order £2000 of science equipment to transform our science lessons... all thanks to the PTA.

### **Mile Run - Wednesday 7th October**

Many of you will know that we hold the Gold School Games Award. We are now going for the Platinum Award and we kick start this with our first mile run of the academic year. We are not allowed to run on the streets at the moment so a track will be marked out in the grounds and off they will go! Please make sure that your child has a navy track suit and trainers.

### **Celebration Lunch - Thursday 1st October**

The kitchen team has planned a delicious 'Rainbow' lunch to celebrate being together in school. We are hoping that everyone will join in!

Thank you for everything that you are doing to support your children in school.

Best wishes,

Mrs Galloway