

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Ms Nicola Kane LLB.PgDip, PgCert.

Tel: 01923 676022 Fax: 01923 893497

Email: admin@st-catherine.herts.sch.uk

www.stcatherinescatholicprimaryschool.co.uk

Horseshoe Lane
Garston
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD25 7HP

21st April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Coronavirus Update

I hope that you had a safe and relaxing Easter break. It has been a very strange one for us all. Easter is a time when many people come together as a family, so it has been challenging to be apart from those we love. All we can do is remember that ours is a tiny sacrifice compared to those on the front-line.

Many people have been touched by this terrible virus. If you or your children have, please know that we are here for you. As a school community, we keep all those suffering from Covid-19 and their friends and family in our thoughts and prayers. We also give our thanks to key workers of every kind – we are in your debt.

EYFS Intake for September 2020

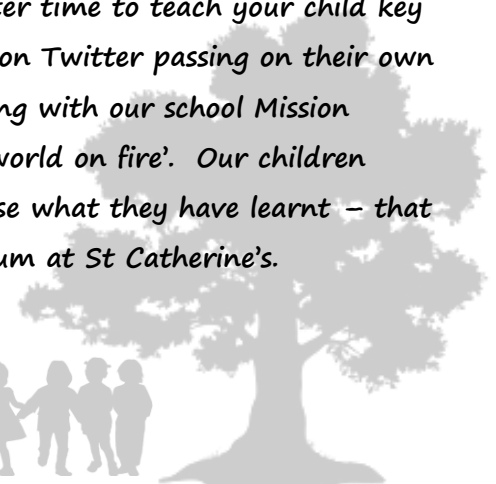
Please note that as we have a double cohort in EYFS 2020 (60 spaces), we still have some places for our September Reception intake. If you know of anyone who was disappointed with their initial allocation, they can still apply for St Catherine's continuing interest via Herts online system. For further information, they can email the school office using admin@st-catherine.herts.sch.uk.

Home Learning

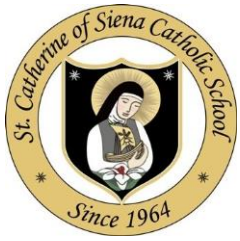
We hope that you have found our HL Tasks useful. Please remember that these were designed to cover the next two weeks. Another set will be issued in two weeks' time. If you are looking for additional resources, BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy

(<https://www.thenational.academy/>) both have fantastic daily, online lessons.

In addition to the formal curriculum, there has never been a better time to teach your child key life-skills. I have been so delighted to see the number of parents on Twitter passing on their own knowledge and experience to their children. This is fully in keeping with our school Mission Statement, 'Be who God created you to be and you will set the world on fire'. Our children don't need knowledge in the abstract, they need to go out and use what they have learnt – that is why we have a cross-curricular, practical, skills-based curriculum at St Catherine's.



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Life Skills

During lockdown, consider taking the opportunity to teach your child to:

- Tie their laces
- Make a cup of tea
- Cook and butter toast
- Prepare a sandwich
- Make their own bed
- Tie a tie
- Vacuum and dust
- Iron
- Wash windows
- Use a tin opener
- Chop an onion safely
- Change a lightbulb
- Organise their books in alphabetical order
- Sew

They are life-skills, but they will also make your life easier!

Applied Learning

Just as you aren't teachers, we aren't plumbers, hairdressers, cooks, carpenters, book-keepers, shop assistants etc. You have a wealth of skills that you can impart during this time, that no teacher could.

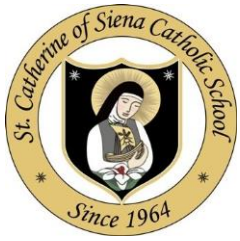
1. Play to your own strengths. Many of you will have a trade – take the opportunity to pass it on! My dad couldn't tell you how to use an apostrophe correctly (that was my mum's remit), but he taught me an awful lot of other things. While helping him work, my dad explained how household electrics function, what rating fuse to use for different types of appliance, to always measure twice and cut once, the difference between imperial and metric units and showed me how to correctly use a drill, saw, screw driver and paintbrush –among other things.

Many of you will have practical skills that you can pass on to your children – do it!

Can you teach your child/ren to:

- Use a hammer without hitting their thumb (you only do it once!)
- Change a plug
- Use basic tools like a saw, screw driver, Allen Keys, pliers and wire strippers
- Paint





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These are skills that can be taught under supervision, with clear rules (my dad checked every single plug before use!) and a focus on safety. Please, please don't gender stereotype – girls should be able to use a hammer and boys should be able to iron!

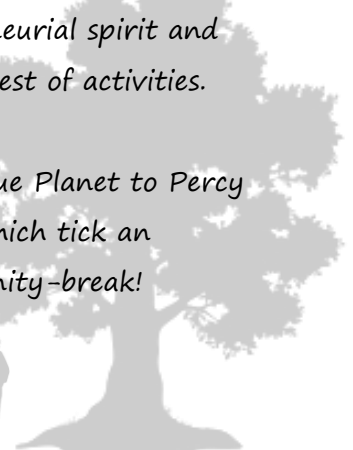
My skills are based on those of my parents. Pass on the knowledge that you have – if you are a hairdresser, teach them about cutting, colouring, styling... If you are a cleaner, teach them which products to use in different parts of the home, tell them how often different tasks should be done and get them involved. If you are a shop assistant, talk to the kids about money, practise giving change, discuss different produce and how it gets from farm to shop. You each have important things that you can teach your kids that have nothing to do with the National Curriculum.

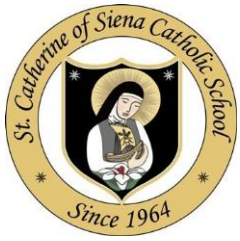
2. Teach your children to stay safe. Depending on their age, consider the following:

- Do you have a fire plan? Have they practised it? Can they get out of the windows in an emergency?
- Do they know where the stopcock is?
- Do they know where the fuse box is located?
- Have they memorised their address and your phone number?
- Do they know what to do if they get lost?
- Have you talked to your children about online safety?
- Do they know about Stranger Danger?
- Do they understand the NSPCC 'Pants Rule'?
- Are they aware of basic First Aid e.g. if you have a burnt finger, run it under cold water ...

3. There is learning in absolutely everything! If you have more than one child at home and they are getting along without killing each other – they are learning teamwork! Boggle teaches spelling, 'Squares' teaches strategy, Pass the Pigs teaches mental maths, Trivial Pursuits provides general knowledge, Monopoly creates an entrepreneurial spirit and Twister is just great fun!! Keep it real and find learning in the simplest of activities.

4. Use screen time effectively. From Number Jacks to Octonights, Blue Planet to Percy Jackson, there are loads of things that your children could watch which tick an educational box. They will also provide you with a much-needed sanity-break!





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These continue to be uncertain times. I would encourage you to join our school Twitter account and post updates about what you are doing. It is a great way for us to stay connected as a school community. Finally, I can always be contacted at head@st-catherine.herts.sch.uk.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay in good humour. Stay sane.

God bless,

Nikki Kane



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