



Bishop Douglass Catholic School Parent Newsletter

In Pursuit of Excellence

20th March 2020

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents,

These are certainly extremely unusual times which will be very difficult for everyone for quite some time. We would hope that we can all get back to some normality as soon as possible.

We issued a number of letters last week detailing how the school will continue to educate our pupils. Copies are available on our website in the 'News and Events' section - 'Letters Home'. Even if this education is through the online platform, we hope that pupils will gain some benefit.

During the coming weeks and months we will do our best to keep in contact via email, parent newsletters and our website:

www.bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk

Our main point of contact for parents will be via email. If you have any enquiries please contact us via:

schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk

and we will do our best to answer queries promptly or redirect questions on to the relevant teacher/member of staff. Remember that if pupils have any issues accessing Show My Homework or other inline platforms they can email :

it@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk

If your child does something you are proud of at home, let us know and we will give them a special mention in next week's newsletter.

Please see a reflection shared with us by our school Governor Anne O'Shea on the last page of the newsletter.

We hope and pray that our whole school community follows the advice, keeps safe and healthy until schools are allowed to reopen.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 3rd April: Last day of term.
Monday 20th April: Summer term begins
Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May: Half Term
Friday 17th July: Last day of term

CORONAVIRUS: ADVICE FOR PARENTS

We would urge all parents to follow the government guidelines on social distancing and ensure that pupils are isolating in a family setting and not mixing with other children. A reminder that advice on COVID 19 (coronavirus) can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Useful contact information for you is as follows:

**Department for Education Coronavirus helpline
Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)**

Helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

ONLINE SAFETY FOR PUPILS

Please remind your children of the importance of staying safe online.

- Be aware of what you share.
- They should not communicate with anyone online unless they know who they are.
- Turn your privacy settings up **to the highest level** on social networking sites.
- Only post things that your **family** would be happy seeing.
- Remember advertising your **location** is dangerous.

If something happens - tell someone:

[Home](#) / [School](#) / [ChildLine](#) / [CEOP](#)

ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

What to Say to Children:

- Report cyberbullying and save the evidence whenever possible.
- Don't be pressured into sending inappropriate images.
- Only post things you would be happy with your family seeing.
- If something happens, tell someone at home or at school.

Advice for Gaming:

- Monitor who your child is talking to via messages or headsets.
- Use passwords on bank cards – many games have in-game purchases.
- Set up time limits on how long they spend playing.

Advice for Social Media:

- Check 'Privacy Settings' are being used on social media.
- Tell them not to accept friend / follow requests from strangers.
- Ensure that they never share their location.

Stay Up to Date:

- www.kidsonlineworld.com
- Website from ECP Ltd – "The more you know, the better!"
- Updates via emails and vlogs, full of information for parents

Helpful Websites:

www.parentzone.org.uk

www.parentinfo.org

www.internetmatters.org

Get advice on filters / settings etc. from NSPCC

Helpline: 0808 800 5002

WORDS OF THE WEEK

Monday- Impervious - (Adjective) - Not allowing fluid to pass through; unable to be affected by.

The broken window is not **impervious** to the rain.

The chemical treatment makes the fireman's uniform **impervious** to flames.

Tuesday- Denigrate- (Verb) - Criticize unfairly; disparage.

While I do not want to **denigrate** my colleague's ability, I cannot let him give our customer poor work.

During the election, the politician did everything in his power to **denigrate** his rival.

Wednesday- Contradict- (Verb) – Deny the truth of (a statement) by asserting the opposite.

Surprisingly, the lab results **contradict** with the physician's diagnosis.

The survey appears to **contradict** motor industry claims.

Thursday- Vehemently - (Adverb) - In a forceful, passionate, or intense manner; with great feeling.

It wasn't the first time they had **vehemently** disagreed on something.

She cried too **vehemently** to go on thinking or speaking.

Friday- Insuperable- (Adjective)- (Of a difficulty or obstacle) impossible to overcome.

This task was destined to prove one of almost **insuperable** difficulty.

No matter how hard the kitten tried, it could not face the **insuperable** challenge of climbing back down the tree.

Please try and get your child to continue to use the words of the day and write them in their journal. Here is some more information about a couple of them for your information and some games for you to try at home:



Word Explosion



Function: *Adjective*

Definition:
Not allowing fluid to pass through; unable to be affected by.

Impervious

Synonyms: (Other words in this class):

Impermeable, Impenetrable

Antonyms (words meaning the opposite):

Permeable, Pervious

Use it in a sentence:
*The broken window is not **impervious** to the rain.*
*The chemical treatment makes the fireman's uniform **impervious** to flames.*

Links to other languages?
Mid 17th century: from Latin *impervius* (from *in-* 'not' + *pervius* 'pervious') + -ous.

What sentences can we create as a class?



Word Explosion



Function: *Adverb*

Definition:
In a forceful, passionate, or intense manner; with great feeling.

Vehemently

Synonyms: (Other words in this class):

Ardent, Impassioned

Antonyms (words meaning the opposite):

Apathetic, Phlegmatic

Use it in a sentence:
*It wasn't the first time they had **vehemently** disagreed on something.*
*She cried too **vehemently** to go on thinking or speaking.*

Links to other languages?
late Middle English (describing pain or temperature, in the sense 'intense, high in degree'): from French *véhément* or Latin *vehement-* 'impetuous, violent'.

What sentences can we create as a class?



Lockdown

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is tragically, even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

people are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

is offering free meals and delivery to the house-bound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighbourhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their

neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality.

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

Fr Richard Hendrick, OFM - March 13th 2020