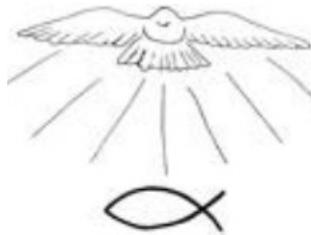


*Dream
Believe
Achieve*



*Learn to love;
love to learn.*



St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am going to keep it short and sweet this week, then next week we will return to a more substantial newsletter. I think you have had enough information sent your way.

It has certainly been a challenging time and I must first of all commend the staff of St Margaret Clitherow. We have found it hard to believe we were on holiday last week. I don't mind telling you that the passion and commitment to the children's education began at the weekend, when staff endeavoured to try and keep the school open, when many others were closing. It was lovely to have the children in on Monday, but we completely understand the need for the switch to remote learning.

Well done to those of you supporting children at home. We are excitedly looking forward to the launch of live learning next week, which will help with establishing routines and building independence. One thing we have recognised is that our current home learners seem to be having a lot of screen time and we will be working on mixing things up and keeping all our learners as happy and healthy as possible. Separate to the scheduled learning we are asking that children record daily what they have read (including book and page numbers), what physical activity they have completed that day and what activity to support their mental health has been completed. This is a non-negotiable for every child, every day.

Next week I too will get involved in some online activity and will lead on an Act of Worship via zoom on Monday at 11:30am, and a celebration assembly on Friday at 1:30pm. Links will be sent out on the day. I hope you can join us.

Please do feedback to the class teachers what you think is working well and what you think may improve things. We are determined that we will do everything we can to ensure not child is left behind during this lockdown. Stay safe everyone.

God Bless to you all

Miss Cathy Lowry



This week try to find a time to rest for a moment in the presence of God, who sent His son to be born on earth for you.

You may like to read this from Matthew 2: 1 - 12.

'After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. "Where is the infant king of the Jews?" they asked. "We saw His star as it rose and have come to do Him homage." When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. "At Bethlehem in Judaea," they told him, "for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

At this point in the Christmas story, Jesus' star has risen and His presence on earth is being felt. People are responding to Him in their own ways, according to their own nature. The wise men are drawn to Him. Herod is perturbed by Him. We wonder why they had such different reactions?

Here is the rest of the reading: 'Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem. "Go and find out all about the child," he said, "and when you have found Him, let me know, so that I too may go and do Him homage." Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And



there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with His mother Mary and falling to their knees they did Him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and returned to their own country by a different way.'

Can you picture the scene? The wise men, filled with delight, fall to their knees, open their treasures and offer their gifts. They are quiet and reverent, filled with awe and adoration. Can you remember a time when you made yourself still and were completely present, giving all your attention to something? How did it make you feel?

When we come into the presence of a tiny baby, we instinctively become quiet and attentive. Their presence exerts a powerful effect on us. Perhaps at some point next week you will find an occasion which draws you to give it your full attention. Perhaps your child asking a difficult question, or a friend needing a listening ear.

Ask God to help you be open to those moments throughout the day